

THE LESSER ANTILLES

I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

"The handbooks were equally barren. In them I found nothing but modern statistics pointing to dreary conclusions, and in the place of any human interest, long stories of constitutions, suffrages, representative assemblies, powers of elected members, and powers reserved to the Crown. Such things, important as they might be, did not touch my imagination; and to an Englishman, proud of his country, the West Indies had a far higher interest."—J. A. FROUDE, *The English in the West Indies*.

It is a notorious fact, acknowledged by writers of every shade of opinion, as well as by official statistics, that while the white population of the British West Indies is annually decreasing, the coloured folk are as steadily increasing.

Various are the causes assigned for this dwindling: witness Sir Graham Briggs's assertion in 1883, that "the inevitable tendency of this rule (of the consignee's lien* in the Encumbered Estates Court) is, of course, to wipe out the resident proprietors;" or Mr. Froude's recent statements regarding the future domination of the negro on the Haytian pattern, as checking immigration further; or again the opinion of Mr. Burnley, in 1881, when backed

* i.e. *preference in the consignee's lien over mortgage-settlements, or any other claim against the estate.*

up by Mr. Salmon, in 1888, that "no men of wealth independent feeling will submit to remain in a country, where they find themselves and children virtually excluded from official rank, emolument, and political influence:" all of which reasons, no doubt, find their several supporters.

As antagonistical are the opinions expressed with regard to this exodus: some considering the passing away of the old *régime* and the increase of peasant proprietors a sure advance in prosperity; while others deplore the break-up of the sugar monopoly, and look with dismay at the increasing status of the coloured people.

Thank Heaven, there are still plenty of energetic men left in our fair West Indian colonies; and the "pale complaining beings" must either be got "to believe that their prosperity depends but little on statutes and governmental interference," but rather upon their own honest exertions, or they must give place to better men.

One thing is certain, that if the white population is to again increase, it must be through the introduction of new blood, and, moreover, of those unacquainted with, or by no ways influenced by, past prosperity or present depression; and whenever an energetic new-comer endeavours to push his way, there must be no obstacles placed in his path. What says Charles Kingsley?—"West Indians are inclined at once to envy and to pooh-pooh the superfluous energy of new-come Europeans," and so pull them down to their own level of inactivity, and consequent depression.

Let there be no mistake about the negro: he is generally willing enough to work for good wages, and at permanent employment; though where he is a peasant proprietor, he cannot be expected to neglect his own holding, just when the white man requires his labour. I agree heartily with Mr. Froude, that "the real want in

the islands is of intelligent Englishmen (or Scotchmen or Irishmen) to employ and direct them," and that "the negroes do not care for politics, and would be pleased to see them swept away to-morrow, if they were governed wisely and fairly." I think also that Mr. Salmon hits the nail on the head in stating, "The negro is apt to be a lazy fellow in that island, where he is little or none the better for working hard;" and that he gives the best reason for his laziness in the following: "but the causes for this are the low wages offered, combined with the dear food."

"What could be the reason," asks Dr. Nicholls, "why young Englishmen went planting to so many other countries, went even to Ceylon and Borneo; while comparatively at their own doors, within a fortnight's sail of Plymouth, there was this island (Dominica), immeasurably more fertile than either? Again, in writing of the same, Mr. Froude declaims: "Here was all this profusion of nature, lavish beyond example, and the enterprising youth of England were neglecting a colony, which might yield them wealth beyond the treasures of the old sugar-planters; going to Florida, to Texas, to South America, taking their energy and their capital to the land of the foreigner, leaving Dominica, which might be the garden of the world, a precious emerald set in the ring of their own Antilles, enriched by the sacred memories of glorious English achievements, as if such a place had no existence." And these remarks are applicable to most of the islands.

Well, what is the reason? Certainly not a political one! I can give two reasons why our young men do not emigrate to the West Indies. Firstly, that no popular information with regard to the advantages of emigrating thither is, or has ever been, vouchsafed to them in the matter; there being no Agent-General for these colonies,

who would both attend to the interests of those residing there, and be able to afford to intending settlers and others full information and statistical abstracts concerning the several industries, and value of land, etc., in the different islands. Secondly, from lack of such knowledge, that old prejudices and erroneous ideas regarding climate and that old bogey "yellow fever," as well as mistaken impressions as to the impossibility of Europeans working in these settlements, have deterred those who would from emigrating thither.

From Père Labat, Michael Scott, and other narrators down to present illustrious authors, we have had various entertaining, instructive, and political works on West Indian topics in general, which have one and all drawn transient attention to these fair but neglected colonies; but, as far as I can ascertain, no one (excepting Mr. Morris) has endeavoured, by affording practical information on the subject, to induce new settlers to make trial of the resources of these islands.

Other colonies of more recent date are all duly represented by their Agents-General, and issue through the offices of the same pamphlets, maps, statistics, lines of route, etc., etc., which, placed before the very eyes of those persons undetermined where to settle, must exercise a very great influence in bringing them to a decision; and which, by their glowing descriptions and fervid inducements to settlers, do more to increase the population of their several countries than any State-aided emigration could possibly accomplish.

My advice is, to flood the country with literature of a cheap and attractive character, on the advantages attending immigration to the British West Indies; and it is in order to further this purpose, and to remove old erroneous prejudices, that this Guide is now issued.

With a view therefore to induce a new energetic set of men to reclaim these beautiful islands from the downward path they have too long been pursuing, and to encourage those already settled there, I have endeavoured to put together a few practical facts concerning the advantages offered by these colonies to the intending settler, together with allusions to industries, new, old, and yet untried, which I trust may be found of service, and lead others to exert themselves in a similar direction.

Further, and in order to eschew as far as possible the political side of the question in the body of the book, I would ask the Home Government, in view of the increasingly democratic aspect of West Indian society, what (if any) steps are being taken to meet the wishes of the vast majority of the people? As I am confident, from all I have heard, seen, and read, that a little attention to their reasonable discontent at having no popularly elected representatives (Barbados excepted) would go far in the way of encouraging the present colonists to become industrious planters and merchants (for I take it that no man negligent in his own affairs would ever be elected to look after those of the community), I cannot too earnestly or emphatically urge that, with certain well-defined, judiciously guarded reservations, *the non-official members of the Executive should be elected at the polls by the people.*

My grateful thanks are due to the proprietors of the *Illustrated London News* for so generously placing at my disposal Mr. Melton Prior's recent sketches in the West Indies, and to Messrs. Macmillan and Co. for the three engravings, "A Tropic Beach," "St. Lucia," and "The High Woods," from Charles Kingsley's "At Last;" also to Messrs. Evans, Son, & Co., of Liverpool, for their views in Montserrat; then to Messrs. Harrison and Sons' *Colonial Office List* I am indebted for much of the history

relating to the Lesser Antilles, and to the *Barbados and West India Directory*, and Messrs. Silver and Co.'s "Handbook of the West Indies," for some interesting local details, as also to the *Kew Bulletin* for some succinct particulars of botanical industries; while to Mr. Hamel Smith, of 109, Fenchurch Street, I owe my first introduction to the West Indies and the cultivation of cacao.

I have invited well-known British firms to advertise in this book, so that intending settlers may know where to procure what they may need in these colonies, and in order to counteract, as far as possible, the effect produced by the numerous foreign advertisements so freely circulating in our West Indian possessions; for our colonists may rest assured of the willingness of their own countrymen to supply them with all they may need, at as reasonable prices as, and of superior quality to, those goods they now so freely purchase from other countries.

I shall be pleased to receive from any of the islands additional information likely to interest intending settlers, which will duly appear in a future revised edition (*probably in the autumn of 1891*), and I shall greatly esteem the receipt of both friendly and other critiques, which may assist me in any way in improving this Guide.

N.B.—To Tourists, Invalids, and Yachtsmen.

"If some fashionable doctor could be got to sing the praises of these islands, much good would result."—J. O. GIBBONS.

To the visitor, a new and enchanting field is opened out by a tour up or down these islands, as good hotels and boarding-houses may be found in most of them, and others are springing up, so that he may be certain of procuring bodily comforts; while to the invalid a balm

of content and exemption from suffering is in store, together with the satisfaction of knowing that in almost every island there are natural medicinal springs similar to those of Aix les Bains and other Continental spas. Both should start during November, when tropical heat and rains will have given over, and the islands will be putting on their brightest and freshest appearance. Each island should be visited, and arrangements made beforehand (through an agent) for board and lodging at the same; and from ten days to a fortnight, or a month at the larger islands, will be found none too long a stay in order to properly explore the beauties of the same.

The sportsman may always find game (in Trinidad, alligators) to bag, the angler abundance of strange fish for his hook, the equestrian and pedestrian daily delightful rides and rambles; while those who are geologists, mineralogists, botanists, zoologists, or conchologists had better take a final farewell of their friends at home, for they will be hardly able to tear themselves away from the extraordinary attractions presented by these paradises of the West.

To the yachtsman, I cannot do better than quote Messrs. S. W. Silver and Co., who write:—

“Winter afloat in the West Indies is most like a glorious summer, and at such a time, when yachts and steam-launches are laid up at home, the trip should be taken. With a well-found private yacht, either steam or sailing, the islands could be visited in succession with ease and comfort. With a harbour handy to run into every fifty miles or less, with abundance of provisions available on every side, with the hospitality for which West Indians are proverbial awaiting each visitor from the old country, with magnificent and ever-changing scenery and wealth untold of plant, animal, bird, and fish

life, the islands ought to become a favourite haunt for the English tourist."

The intense luxury in, and beneficial effects resulting from sea-bathing in the tropics—the water being of extraordinary clearness and rarity—form an additional inducement for visitors to do the grand tour, and it is satisfactory to know that our medical men are advising invalids to proceed thither.

In conclusion, let me urge upon West Indians in general the absolute necessity for bringing their Islands more prominently before the British public, by advertising largely in each and every favourable medium that may offer; for, as a matter of fact, would-be settlers and visitors have no inducements to proceed thither, the several hotels, boarding-houses, natural attractions, and so forth being comparatively unknown to any but the inhabitants themselves; whereas other places, unworthy of competing with the Lesser Antilles in health-giving qualities and superb scenery, are advertised the whole tourist-world over, thus attracting thousands to their coasts.

Why should West Indians for ever be content to "rest under a cloud"? for if the "sweet" has in a single instance turned to "bitter," let it rather be a stimulus to exertion in other directions, one of the chief of which should be the disclosure of the best means of attracting visitors, to "winter" in their midst.

II.

AREA, POPULATION, AND PRICE OF CROWN LANDS.

THE following are the principal islands of the Lesser Antilles (including Trinidad):—

British West Indies:	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Capital.	Price of Crown Lands.
1. *Barbados	166½	180,000	Bridgetown.	None.
2. Trinidad and	1754½	178,270	Port of Spain.	£1 per acre.†
*Tobago	115	18,000	Scarborough.	10s. per acre.†
3. Windward Islands, viz.—				
(a) Grenada	133	47,364	St. George.	Little or none.
(b) St. Vincent	132½	42,000	Kingstown.	£1, £2, to £5 per acre.†
(c) St. Lucia	237½	47,791	Castries.	£1 per acre.†
4. Leeward Islands, viz.—				
(a) *Dominica	291	29,500	Roseau.	10s. per acre.†
(b) Montserrat	32½	10,500	Plymouth.	Little or none remunerative.
(c) Antigua	108½	35,000	St. John's.	
(d) St. Kitts and	68	45,000	Basseterre.	
(e) Nevis	50			
(f) The Virgin Islands	57½	5,000	Tortola.	10s. per acre.†

* No export duties.

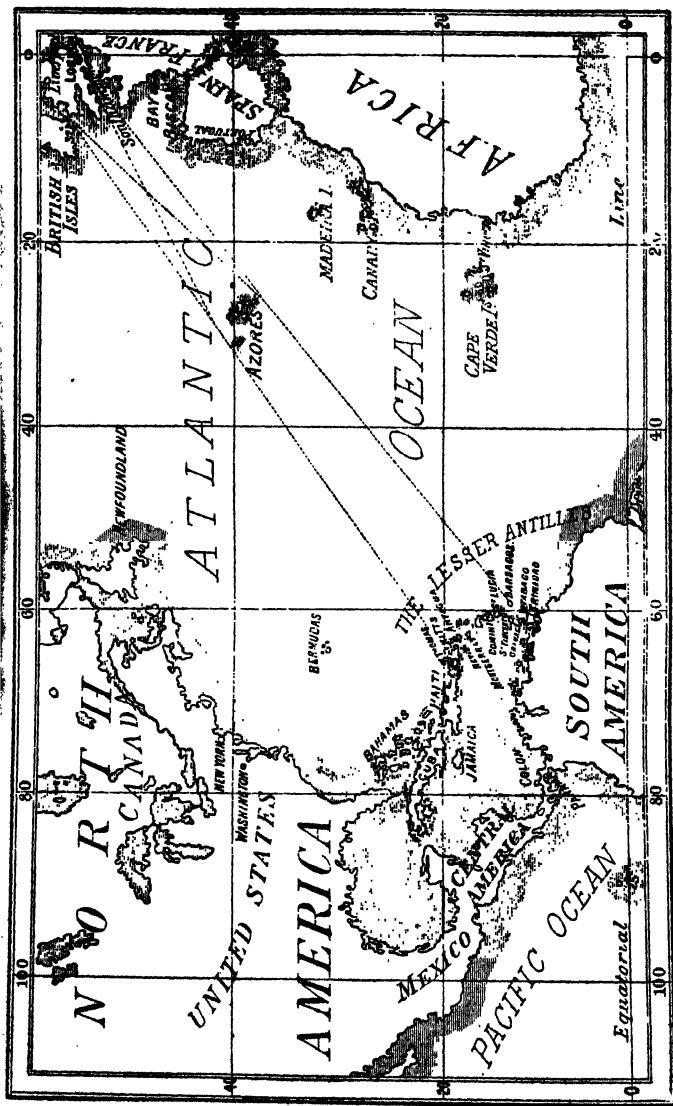
† Payable by easy instalments. In Dominica, free grants are contemplated under certain conditions. N.B.—Where there are no Crown lands available, land may be purchased under private treaty, very often at reasonable terms; though where exceptionally well situated, as much as from £50 to £100 per acre is required.

III.

LINES OF ROUTE.

Port.	Names of Leading Companies.	Port of Embarkation.	Fares.	Duration of Voyage.
Barbados	Royal Mail (<i>vide</i> advt.).	Southampton (alternate Thursdays).	1st class, £25, £35, £43 10s.; 2nd, £20; 3rd, £15 (men only).	13 days.
"	West India and Pacific (<i>vide</i> advt.).	Liverpool (weekly).	1st class, £20.	16 days.
"	Direct Line.	London.		
Tobago	Harrison Line.	Liverpool.		
"	Same as to Windward Islands.	Same as to Barbados.	Same as to Barbados.	14 days by Royal Mail.
Trinidad	Same as to Barbados.	"	"	14 days by Royal Mail; 18 days by West India and Pacific.
Windward Islands, viz.—				About 15 days by Royal Mail.
Grenada	Royal Mail and Direct Line.	"	"	About 16 days by Royal Mail.
St. Vincent		"	"	About 17 days by Royal Mail.
St. Lucia		"	"	
Leeward Islands, viz.—				
Dominica	Royal Mail to St. Kitts; frequent communica- tion by schooner, at a small fare, between St. Kitts and Nevis.	"	"	
Montserrat		"	"	
Antigua		"	"	
Nevis		"	"	
St. Kitts		"	"	
Virgin Islands—				
St. Thomas (a Danish colony), from whence there is irregular com- munication.	West India and Pacific.	Liverpool (monthly).	"	15 to 16 days.

N. B.—For Trinidad and Tobago, the Windward and Leeward Islands, passengers by the Royal Mail tranship at Barbados.



IV.

THE VOYAGE.

HAVING myself travelled exclusively by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's line of route, perhaps a brief outline of events likely to occur during the voyage will be of interest, and I therefore cannot do better than relate my own experiences on board the good ship *Moselle* (Captain Jellicoe). After securing his berth in good time prior to the date announced for the departure of the steamer, so as to avoid hurry and confusion at the last, the intending settler or visitor, finding his way to Southampton Docks, will embark on one of the company's vessels, which with common luck will convey him within the fortnight to Barbados. We will suppose, for the benefit of the tourist, that having embarked for Barbados, he will thence proceed *viâ* Tobago to Trinidad, whence, after thoroughly doing that superb and interesting island, he intends voyaging leisurely up and down the Windward and Leeward groups, stopping here and there as inclination suits him, until he rejoin the homeward-bound Transatlantic liner at Barbados. By adopting this route, I shall be enabled to unfold, for the benefit of future settlers, the peculiar beauties of each island, together with succinct details of their several industries, accompanied by hints as to the development of new productions.

On arriving at the docks, our luggage is duly labelled with the name of the island destined to receive us, and proceeding on board the tender, we are soon alongside our floating home. Before finally starting, there is ample time for comfortably settling down, and, if alone, for making the acquaintance of our cabin companions; if absolutely necessary, the courteous agent of the company, who is on board till the departure of the vessel, will allow one to change cabins, which is often a much-to-be-desired indulgence on his part. Having settled these little matters, there is found laid out in the spacious saloon, an excellent cold luncheon, of which passengers and their friends are alike invited to partake; and this is a very gracious attention by the authorities, which enables all to enjoy a last social entertainment, and is productive of that hilarity and cheerfulness which in some measure breaks the pang of parting. And here it may be well to note that, at the first dinner on board, one must be careful to select a seat at some particular table, where either friends or kindred spirits may be found; for, having once made such choice of quarters, one is very naturally expected to keep to the same, in order to avoid confusion during the voyage. There is generally a sort of *esprit de corps* among the occupants of a table, a good fellowship which, if properly responded to, makes the time pass pleasantly, and often results in lifelong friendships.

Off Netley, we receive the mails from shore, the tug which brings them lying alongside, till our friends, with many adieus, some of a cheerful, hopeful nature, others with sad falling tears, have all left the ocean steamer; then the anchor is raised, the screw propels itself through the hissing waters, and we are off. I may reasonably trust that the disaster of a fog, which brought us to anchor again almost immediately, and hung like a pall

over the ship for three whole days, obscuring the vision further than a few yards on either side, may not be



THE TUG "ALEXANDRA" LEAVING THE SHIP AT METLEY: "GOOD-BYE."

experienced by any reader of this Guide; for the effect is decidedly depressing, and apt to damp the spirits of the

most cheery on board. The only consolation we derived from this delay was our being enabled to surprise our friends at home with letters apparently from the deep, and by not alluding to the fog, give them cause for conjecture as to how we contrived to daily post our correspondence.

Having duly sighted Eddystone Lighthouse, and taken a last lingering farewell of old England, as the Lizard Point gradually dies away in the dim haze, we turn our attention to our fellow-travellers, make ourselves acquainted with the good ship fore and aft, and, if good sailors, enjoy prodigiously, with appetites sharpened by the keen north-easter that wafts us on our way, the excellent and often sumptuous fare provided for our consumption; indeed, meal follows meal with striking regularity, and the very tablecloths appear loth to leave their respective boards. While the captain and officers who preside over all, and in full fig dine with the passengers, are most courteous, gentlemanly men, ever ready to advance the temporary interests of their charges, the stewards will be found most attentive, and real friends in case of need, while obliging civility attends any nautical or other information obtainable from the ship's crew.

As to the amusements on board, they are both diverse and original, much depending on the character and individual resources of the passengers; and yet there is no intrusion—social parties are respected and privacy not invaded. Still, it becomes all to join in promoting pleasure and entertainment; and improvised concerts, private theatricals, and evening dances, to say nothing of trials by jury, and local newspapers, are the cause of much innocent enjoyment, mild flirtations, and general merriment, without which a voyage would be monotonous indeed. Quoits, bowls, and billiards, specially adapted to

the requirements of the ship itself, with chess, draughts, and cards, find their several admirers, while smoking is permitted in a saloon specially devoted to that purpose. Having been so fortunate as to become the first winner of the exciting daily lottery as to the good ship's speed, I naturally view the same with considerable favour, at the same time cautioning inexperienced ones against bidding too freely for supposed lucky numbers. The *modus operandi* is as follows:—All who wish contribute half a crown or two shillings to the pool; the numbers, starting from about 285 to 330, are then drawn for, and subsequently put up to auction, those considered as likely distances for the ship's run fetching very often considerable prices; half the sum attained for any ticket going to the owner, half to the pool. When the sun has reached its meridian, the observation is taken, calculations made (woe betide that young officer whose sum total differs from that obtained by his superior), and the result posted on the companion ladder, and happy is that traveller who possesses the lucky number.

The voyager is probably awakened, until accustomed to the noise, at four o'clock in the morning, by the "swabbing" of the deck over his head, and is glad of the steward's entrance at six, with cups of coffee, tea, or cocoa; but until eight he is best in his cabin, his room being preferable to his company by those whose duty it is to clean, scrub, and make generally tidy. At eight one gets the long-looked-for bath, either in the bathroom, or on deck under the full stream of the hose. But the passenger will soon become accustomed to the regular daily routine, even to the Sunday morning service in the saloon, where the captain is, as elsewhere, supreme, and acts as his own chaplain; however, as there is often a clergyman on board proceeding to his distant parish,

one then gets the benefit of a sermon befitting the occasion.

Many of us were accustomed to angle, with all kinds of indescribable lines, for whatever the ocean would yield of its animal or vegetable treasures; and if fish were not caught in prodigious numbers, save when by chance the engines were stopped, at all events rare seaweeds, and portions of the world-famed Sargasso, or gulf-weed, with its attendant zoophytes, molluscs, and the like, rewarded the patience and dexterity of their captors.

After passing the Azores—a sight of which we failed to obtain—the approach of the tropics was daily heralded by the increasing warmth of the sun, and delightful mildness of the north-east wind; until at length it became necessary to raise the awning over the deck, and from winter wraps there suddenly emerged, as from the chrysalis state, full-fledged butterflies—the men in the familiar white suits affected by those accustomed to hot climates, and the ladies in every variety of summer attire; while all felt their spirits invigorated by the seemingly miraculous change from mid-winter to fairy summer. And so on from day to day, till the Barbadian passengers are seen on the alert (tell it not in Askelon that top-hats are *de rigueur* for landing here!), and the sailors are busy bringing up their belongings from the hold, and getting the mails ready for conveyance ashore.

Now at last we sight a real tropical coast, and gaze with profound interest at its rapidly approaching shores, and presently we quietly drop anchor off Bridgetown, Barbados. Here the new-comer will enjoy all the pleasurable excitement that the first sight of strange land, vegetation unknown and undreamed of, and a race of men noted for their black skin, woolly hair, and thick lips, may engender in his hitherto untravelled imagi-

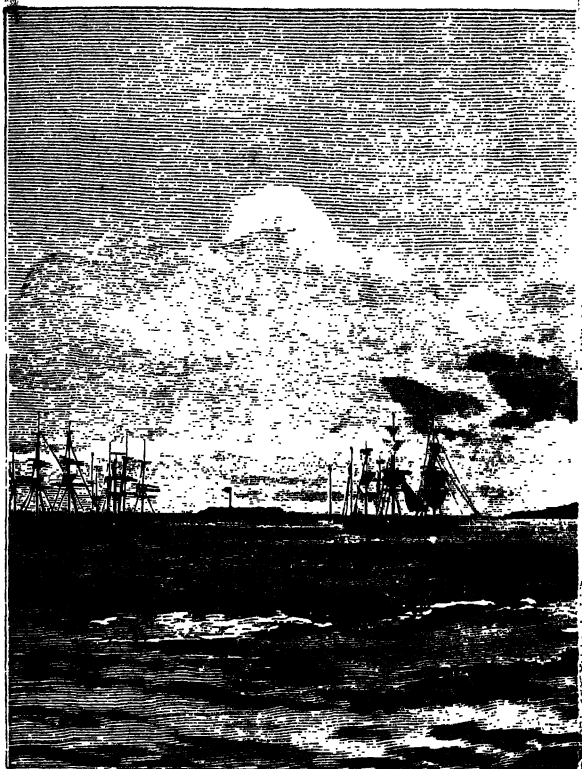
nation by the change of steamers at Barbados; will learn to appreciate the welcome cessation of the burr caused by the ship's screw; and will have to part with many pleasant fellow-travellers, partners in sickness and health during the various vicissitudes attendant on the crossing of the Atlantic, whom the different steamers will convey away, each to his own island home. And it is with no ordinary feelings of regret that we leave the hospitable liner, where maybe we parted from those nearest and dearest to ourselves off the shores of the dear old home, found comfort and enjoyment in the society on board, and nothing but kindness from those responsible for our welfare; so that the last tie seems broken when we shake hands and bid adieu to its courteous and friendly commander.

Apropos of *mal de mer*, before undertaking a voyage the "new-chum" should place himself under a good medical man, who will so diet him previous to embarking that, if attacked with sea-sickness, the same will soon pass off, and he will be all the better afterwards. Soda-water, pure and simple, and Huntley and Palmer's plain milk or lunch biscuits, will be found the best diet whilst suffering from this temporary derangement; in fact, a private tin of this justly celebrated firm's biscuits will be found very handy by the traveller, when, for one reason or another, he is "off his feed."

V.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLANDS OF THE LESSER ANTILLES.

“ BEAUTIFUL islands, where the green
Which nature wears was never seen
’Neath zone of Europe; where the hue
Of sea and heaven is such a blue
As England dreams not; where the night
Is all irradiate with the light
Of stars like moons, which, hung on high,
Breathe and quiver in the sky,
Each in its silver haze divine
Flinging in a radiant line
O’er gorgeous flower and mighty tree,
On the soft and shadowy sea!
Beautiful islands, short the time
I dwelt beneath your tropic clime;
Yet oft I see, in noonday dream,
Your glorious stars with noonday beam,
And oft before my sight arise
Your sky-like seas, your sea-like skies,
Your green bananas’ giant leaves,
Your golden canes in arrowy sheaves,
Your palms, which never die, but stand
Immortal sea-marks on the strand,
Their feathery tufts like plumage rare,
Their stems so high, so strange, and fair!



Yes, while the breeze of England now
 Flings rose-scents on my aching brow,
 I think a moment I inhale
 Again the breath of tropic gale."

H. N. COLERIDGE.

BARBADOS.

Barbados is supposed to have been discovered by the Portuguese, who named it Los Barbados, on account of its bearded fig-trees; but we find no historical mention as to its being a British colony until the year 1625, ever since which it has remained a faithful and loyal dependency of the mother-country. Hardly so big in size as the Isle of Wight, and of very similar elevation, it has a big British heart, as we are told in Captain Marryat's "Peter Simple," beating with patriotic spirit in black and white bosoms alike. "King George nebber mind Bonypart so long as Badian tand tiff," was the proud boast of insular "darkies," all through the great French war. It may interest the intending settler there to learn that, the colony being jocularly termed "Bimshire," he will henceforth belong to those rejoicing in the euphonious sobriquet of "Bims." The island is almost encircled by coral reefs, which extending in some parts nearly three miles to seaward, prove dangerous to navigation even in fair weather, and when the stormy winds and blinding rains of the tropics are in full blast, too often are the cause of shipwrecks and consequent loss of life.

As soon as the anchor of the Atlantic liner is dropped and the medical official grants us a clean bill of health, the decks are instantly boarded by officers of the company and friends of the passengers, while visitors

also row from shore, anxious to participate in the general welcome invariably offered on the arrival of the mails from Old England. In fact, it is "gala day" at Barbados. We are moreover instantly besieged by a fleet of craft of all descriptions, manned by shouting, swearing, and apparently pugilistic darkies. The din is indescribable. As we look over the steamer's side and watch the swarms there, waiting permission to storm the deck in quest of passengers and their *impedimenta*, we must think of the time when their grandparents or parents were slaves, and then we shall cease to wonder that—having been so suddenly freed from the white man's thrall, some fifty-six years ago, without due preparation for their after duties as co-citizens with their former oppressors—they and theirs should still retain their coarse manners and expressions; yet the ameliorating influences of education have already worked wonders, and much is expected from the rising generation. However, if we cultivate their acquaintance by taking a row ashore, we shall find that they only require a little firm civility, and are, as a rule, as obliging as our own countrymen. And here I may quote sundry useful hints to travellers from the *Barbados and West Indian Directory*:—

"The Barbados boatmen will set you wild with their offers of services. Most of them are good and reliable chaps, who will stick to the bargain once made; but should you fall on some unscrupulous scamp, who after bargaining with you for, say, two or three shillings, carries you in the bay, and when half-way to or from the steamer refuses to row on unless you pay him a dollar or a dollar and a half at once, as sometimes happens, just hail or signal a police boat, which is all day and night at hand, and your unscrupulous scamp will at once be taken in proper charge by the the authorities. If

you make up your mind to go to one of the hotels, hail the water-clerk of the hotel which you have chosen, to take you ashore in the hotel boat; it will save you trouble, inconvenience, time, and money. If, again, you wish for a guide to direct you to the principal places of interest, engage a reliable one, through the proprietor of the hotel where you are stopping; also, do not jump into the first cab you meet in the street, but order a livery carriage at any of the hotels, and in every case make your bargain beforehand. Once more, if you find yourself followed about and annoyed by a pack of dirty-looking street boys, just hail a police constable and put the matter in his hands. Our advice to you is, to have nothing to do with the street boy; he is always most assiduous in his offers of assistance to foreigners, but is most untrustworthy."

Let me add one warning. Remember the negro is a man and a brother, that in the West Indies there is no distinction of colour, and that rude remarks or unconcealed laughter may involve you in much-to-be-regretted unpleasantness.

On landing, we at once experience the full blaze of a tropical sun, and, after a somewhat desultory stroll, are thankful to betake ourselves to the refreshing coolness of the Icehouse, which is a rendezvous for all; where the news of the day is discussed, and cooling drinks dispensed to the ever-thirsty West Indian. From the verandahs one can watch the motley crowd below, principally composed of negresses dressed in the most gaudy finery, and parading with the airs of princesses the narrow tortuous streets of this badly arranged town. Large flat trays, piled with fruits and sweetmeats, are cleverly balanced upon the heads of these strutters, and every one is munching a hard section of sugar-cane. As Tom Cringle

affirms, "a negro carries everything on his head, from a bale of goods to a wine-glass or teacup;" and, indeed, when wheel-barrowes were first imported, to lessen the labour and strain of conveying heavy burdens; the negroes filled them, but merely to carry them on their heads, though now using them like ordinary mortals; and it is to this universal practice, common alike to both men and women, that we must attribute their upright stature and firm tread. It is a favourite amusement to throw from the verandah copper and even silver coins to be scrambled for by the darkies below; old and young, men, women, and even children, doing everything they can to induce one to throw a coin into their hats, hands, or aprons, many a handsome dish of fruit coming to grief in the struggle for money.

At the Icehouse the traveller will be initiated into the mysteries of the concoction so dear to the inhabitants of "Bimshire." It is thus described by Mr. Froude: "Cocktail is the established corrective of West Indian languor, without which life is impossible. It is a compound of rum, sugar, limejuice, Angostura bitters, and what else I know not, frisked into effervescence by a stick, highly agreeable to the taste, and effective for its immediate purpose." I can assure my readers that life is quite possible, and indeed much happier, without recourse to cocktail or other similar stimulants, to the frequent indulgence in which may be traced much of the want of success, and consequent depression, amongst settlers in these islands.

After promenading the town and its environs the visitor may—so proceeds our *Directory*—perhaps come in for the sight of a cricket or polo match on the Garrison Savannah, and the gay spectacle of the Bridgetown *élite* enjoying its promenade on the breezy Hastings

"Rocks," sometimes to the music of the garrison band, sometimes only to that of the waves that dash up along



STREET SCENE, BARBADOS: THROWING MONEY.

the white sand and sprinkle the greensward with their silver spray.

There are many handsome buildings in or near Bridgetown, including the Codrington College, the Hospital and Lunatic Asylum, while the Green, or Trafalgar Square, is adorned with the statue of Nelson. St. Anne's, with the garrison, and Fontabelle are its suburbs. There is also a fine cathedral, and on a Sunday it is a sight to witness the magnificently dressed Creoles thronging its spacious nave, the coloured congregation keeping to the side aisles; and it is to these real ladies and gentlemen, who make up what is termed "society," that the people owe their civilizing and refining influences. And here at the outset let me state that the word "Creole" simply signifies "of native origin," and is as applicable to a white as to a coloured person, or to a cow or boat.

"Although Barbados boasts no lofty mountain ranges to be scaled by aspiring tourists, no Grandes Souffriers into whose bottomless abysses they may descend, no pathless primeval forests to be penetrated, she has yet much to offer in the way of scenery, natural and cultivated;" and if the traveller has a day or two for leisure, before proceeding on his way, he cannot do better than make different excursions over the island, directions for which will be found in an admirable little book, entitled "A West Indian Sanatorium," by the Rev. J. H. Sutton Moxley, Chaplain of the Forces.

The "Animal Flower Cave;" the "Boiling Spring," where you may set fire with a lucifer to the surface of the water, which at times is covered with carburetted hydrogen, and boil your tea-kettle or eggs; "Yarico's Pond," and other marvels will amply repay a visit; while a drive to the old parish church of St. John's, with its strikingly homely interior, and exquisite panorama below the chasm on which it is perched, will gratify and delight the visitor. Again, ologists of all descriptions will find

matter of entertainment and interest; the geologist especially in the calcareous marl of the interior, where entire coral seams may be observed in some of the road cuttings, placed one above the other, just as they were formed beneath the ocean, prior to volcanic disturbances.

The climate is very healthy, and adults commonly reach the allotted term of man's existence, though among the coloured labouring classes the mortality up to twelve years of age is high. The population is now estimated at 180,000, of which rather more than a twelfth are white.

Barbados, being a low, flat island, is consequently a perfect garden for the cultivation of the sugar-cane, everything else having to give way before this one particular product, which in its unique development has been at one and the same time the curse and blessing of the planter. Absenteeism and want of energy, more than any deterrent effect from foreign sugar bounties, are the main causes of failure; for industrious planters still and will succeed, as well they may, when we consider that the emancipation of the slaves, which caused such disastrous results to cane-growers in the adjacent islands, made comparatively little difference in Barbados, the majority of the negroes continuing to work as hired servants, owing to lack of provision grounds on which to squat, and being diligent, if not always straightforward characters. The sugar crop averages about 60,000 hogs-heads, and 30,000 puncheons of molasses yearly, some 500 mills being in operation.

Mr. Froude, in his recent book on the West Indies, writes: "Tied to sugar-growing, Barbados has no second industry to fall back upon." A truce then to such ties! What, no product capable of being raised, but sugar, and from a soil that will grow almost anything? Surely there are abundance of other paying crops, that would be

worth the while of estate proprietors to grow. Let us look back, we find no mention of sugar as a marketable commodity till about the middle of the seventeenth century; indigo, cotton-wool, ginger and aloes, with several kinds of woods, forming the staple articles of production and export; and now, at the present time, it is actually the fact that maize, rice, tobacco, and numerous other articles, to say nothing of fruit and vegetables, are imported into the island, when there is land in every way suitable for their cultivation lying idle, or being forced to produce a crop which often is not worth the labour bestowed upon it. Why should not the encumbered plantations of Barbados be freed from this everlasting drudgery of cane-growing, and be opened out to men of energy and small capital? Depend upon it, "God helps those who help themselves;" and if only a few resolute agriculturists, unaccustomed to pin their faith on the success of a single product, but trusting to the many crops capable of reaching perfection in such a climate, were to once gain footing in Barbados and the other islands of the Lesser Antilles, we should soon hear of such a revival of trade, that thousands would flock to so desirable an El Dorado. Then despondent dreamers of impending ruin and undesirable negro republics would again pluck up courage, and trust to their own determined energies, as their forefathers did before them. In writing thus, I must not be supposed to depreciate the great sugar industry of Barbados, where it may be grown to a profit; but to suggest other crops, when such is known for a fact to be otherwise.

My remarks under "Other Industries" will be found to contain hints as to successful cattle-raising, which should commend themselves to any enterprising Barbadian; especially where the requirements of a garrison ought to encourage local industries, and where an

intermediate green crop eaten off by cattle would both improve and re-invigorate the land, proving a useful catch-crop in the place of yams, which impoverish the soil. Briefly, then, sugar, arrowroot, and aloes, with £1000 worth of whale-oil, and £3000 worth of petroleum, form the sole exports of one of our oldest colonies.

So Barbados is the garden of the West Indies, as far as greenness is concerned; but it is of one product only. It is a society place, and possesses all the externals of civilization; but it is, at present, no place for a poor man or small capitalist. So let us pass on, thankful for the insight it has given us into tropical nature, and, weighing anchor, steam towards Tobago, which we shall probably reach by breakfast-time the next morning. We throw up rockets and Roman candles on passing our old Atlantic steamer, the *Moselle*, to which the crew respond, and a very pretty effect is the result; while we cheer and bid farewell until we can hear each other no longer, and then repair to our new berths, tired out with the strange excitements of the day, and with a fixed determination of rising early, in order to miss nothing of the new experiences of the morrow.

TOBAGO (NOW ONE COLONY WITH TRINIDAD).

After a probably less comfortable night than enjoyed on the large ocean steamer, we are apprised of the vicinity of land by the gradual declension of the ship's speed, and on looking out through the porthole of our cabin, perceive a rugged and not altogether-inviting-looking island, that to be compelled to sojourn in, *merely* for the purpose of cultivating the toothsome cane, must surely be productive of melancholia; but which, under a judicious agricultural system, promises to compete with Dominica

in the steady flow of emigration, which must ere long be attracted to these fertile spots.

This is Tobago, the reputed island of Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday, an Arrowak who may have been brought a prisoner from Trinidad by the Caribs; and we are fully authorized in accepting this island as the locale of Daniel De Foe's immortal narrative, from the descriptions he vouchsafes of its climate, geographical position, and of the Caribbean savages who visited its coasts; each and every detail of which could not by any possibility have happened at Juan Fernandez* off the south-west coast of South America, where Alexander Selkirk is commonly reported to have passed his lonely residence.

What a blessing to eat one's breakfast in still waters, and to devour for the first time real tropical fruits, oranges and bananas fresh gathered, and, prince of all, the Avocado pear, or "midshipman's butter"—this latter term explaining its delicious properties!

Tobago has had a very eventful history, and has been bandied about betwixt French and English like a shuttlecock; its colonists being noted for their most determined and gallant defence against the former in 1781, only yielding to overwhelming superiority of numbers. Columbus in 1498 discovered the island, then occupied by the original barbarians who peopled these Windward and Leeward groups, the yellow Caribs; and the British flag was first planted in this colony in 1580; but not until 1814 was the island finally ceded in perpetuity to the British Crown. The formation of the island is volcanic, and on a nearer inspection, especially if we advance a

* It is a well-known fact that a Mosquito-Indian of the name of William, who was of the celebrated buccaneer William Dampier's following, was inadvertently left alone on the island of Juan Fernandez for three years; and hence no doubt the mistake as to the locality of Selkirk's island.

little into the interior, we find its physical aspect irregular, it is true, but interesting, having conical hills and ridges, which descend from a common base or dorsal ridge, 1800 feet high, and eighteen miles in length. Two-thirds of the island are still covered with primeval forest, comprising many varieties of hard wood and ornamental trees, a great portion of it being almost unexplored. Briefly, it has an area of 114 square miles, or 73,313 acres, of which about 10,000 acres are under cultivation. Scarborough is its principal town, on the south side of the island, having in its vicinity the ungarrisoned Fort King George, 425 feet above the level of the sea, and a lighthouse; Georgetown, on the south-east, having been the former capital, while Plymouth, opposite which we anchor, is the principal port of the island, the bay being rather dangerous of navigation, owing to the presence of a rock, termed the Beef Barrel, which might easily be displaced by the explosion of a few charges of gun-cotton and dynamite.

It goes without saying that sugar and molasses form its staple product, though the exportations of the raw material have sunk from 15,327 hogsheads in the year 1805, to the present insignificant quota of some 4000 hogsheads per annum. Tobago has suffered greatly at the hands of those absentee monopolists and others who would grow nothing but sugar, and, when its cultivation failed, betook themselves to other places more remunerative for their selfish pursuits. Similarly with Barbados, we find, on looking back into the past, that the cultivation of the cane is but of comparatively recent date, the first sugar being exported in the year 1770; and as in striking contradiction to this perverse one-crop system, it is stated that as late as the year 1780 no less than 2,619,000 pounds of cotton and 27,000 pounds of indigo were shipped to England; whereas, I believe it to be a fact that at the

present time, in the majority of the islands, there is not sufficient cotton produced to stuff the mattresses of the people. Still, where all looks dark, there is a glimmer of hope, for coco-nuts have been shipped to the value of nearly £3000, and attention is now being turned to the production of cacao and coffee, for which the soil and climate are admirably adapted.

Now, if this be really the island of the "monarch of all he surveyed," surely his example of industry and perseverance in the face of apparently insurmountable difficulties should have stimulated Tobagians, of all people in the world, both past and present, to greater exertions; and this colony, if any, should have led the van in matters agricultural. The veracious narrative relates how the "solitary man," from less than a handful of barley, in four years harvested a sufficient crop for his sustenance, having two seed-times and harvests, and moreover instructs future settlers to be sure and plant previous to the "wet season;" the same with rice; again, he dried grapes and stored them. Here is a new industry! He found plenty of wild tobacco, and subsequently successfully cultivated the same; he moreover rejoiced in the juice of the lime.

Where, O Tobagians, are your lime groves? where your tobacco plantations? where your golden acres of barley, and your fields of rice? He speaks, moreover, of an osier-like wood; also of the excellent candles, produced from the boiled-down fat of his goats. Where are your manufactory of wicker-baskets and your tallow-chandlers? But why should I write further? "The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe" is within the reach of all; therefore let me but urge the planters of Tobago to invest in this shilling history of what pluck and endurance will accomplish, and who knows but what the example may

become contagious, and this island, more read about than any other portion of the universe, will yet show the way to the future prosperity and renown of these fair but neglected inheritances? Like Betteridge, in Wilkie Collins's "Moonstone," let them refer to its pages when in doubt and perplexity, and assuredly they will not fail to derive some benefit by so doing.

The proximity of Tobago to Trinidad, some twenty miles distant, as well as its being within easy access of Barbados, two centres of civilization and commercial enterprise, is worth considering by settlers on the look-out for both cheap and good land. Indentured coolies may be had for the asking; so that intending colonists may reckon on cheap and effective labour. "The system of resident owners of small and moderate-sized holdings, cultivating and personally superintending the cultivation of their property, is what is wanted in this island, and it will doubtless hereafter spread to it. This and other islands offer a really good field for the enterprise of young Englishmen." These are the remarks of one who ought to know his subject well, and I cordially agree with Mr. Salmon in the matter.

Now that Tobago is joined with Trinidad as one colony, a new life is naturally opened out to her, and one of her chief industries should be the more systematic providing of her important sister colony with cattle and sheep; sundry foods, such as coconut cake and cotton cake, the raw material of which is in such profusion, or could quickly be produced, should be manufactured on the island, to supplement good feeding on the native pasturage, while old plantations could be sown down with Guinea and Para grass, maize and other sorghum, which, eaten off green, is so highly nutritious for stock.

It is my firm conviction that these colonies, one and

all, would prosper better if their produce was kept more for local needs; and when those were satisfied, the surplus could be exported; for if we grow merely *to sell*, the land must be impoverished in consequence. Therefore let future settlers in Tobago grow in order *to feed*, and the fertilizing gained by having the stock eating off green crops cannot fail to put new heart into the land, and so prepare it for other sowings. There is, again, a dearth of manufactories in these islands, and as they necessarily employ many hands, wherever they can be started as suggested above, in connection with the making of feeding cakes for cattle, they should be got to work as soon as possible. There has been too much trusting to simple cultivation of the raw material, without suitable appliances for reducing the same to the needs of the community at large, and I am confident that manufactories, such as suggested above, could not but help in again bringing prosperity to these islands.

The matter is further treated of under St. Lucia and Nevis.

Off once more, with the knowledge that about four p.m. we shall be at anchor off Trinidad, and soon feel the solid ground once again beneath our feet, and that we may revel in the novelties that at all times will meet our view.

TRINIDAD.

And now that earthly paradise looms in the far distance, and anon we are steaming along its northern coast, in the green-dyed sea caused by the intermingling waters of the Orinoco. The nearer we approach, the more we fall in love with its lofty, irregular, and fantastic-shaped mountains, teeming with varied-coloured foliage that beggars description, and descends to the very water's edge in

twisted, matted creepers; while caves, grottoes, and overhanging rocks are completely entwined with flowers, the whole presenting a mass of the richest floral bouquets that the most inventive and powerful imagination can picture. Such is the vision that meets and astounds the eye of the bewildered gazer, until he longs to be able to distinguish any one plant away from its entangling yet lovely companions, and to cull from this gigantic nosegay specimens to which he cannot ascribe a name, and of the half of which he will never learn the true botanical designation. Here also he will be delighted with his first sight of the pelican, fishing in flocks, and darting with inconceivable rapidity on to the water, seizing the finny prize in their long hollow bills.

And now we steer between the well-known Bocas, precipitous islands, divided from the mainland by the furious action of the trade-sea, but which have retained their pristine gorgeousness of vegetation, and form a fit and triumphal entrance to that highly favoured island of Trinidad. It is interesting, whilst having this panorama before us, to learn that the three mountain peaks which we now behold gave Columbus the confirmation of his pious intention of naming the first land he should sight after the Blessed Trinity, in accordance with which the island was designated Trinidad, on July 31, 1499.

Having now anchored in the spacious harbour of Port of Spain, the traveller hires a boat, places himself therein with his belongings, and is pulled on shore, taking care to avoid imposition when settling with the boatmen, by insisting on the production of the official tariff. He is landed at the Custom House wharf, where his luggage being quickly passed by a courteous official, he is at liberty to proceed to his destination. Of course, should he have previously decided upon putting up at any particular hotel or

boarding-house, he would hail the boat attached to such, and ignore all other offers of assistance.

The Indian Paradise, as this beautiful island has been called, ranks second in size among our West Indian colonies. Groves of palm and citron—hedgerows of sweet-smelling spice woods—fields in which the golden fragrant pine-apples lie thick as turnips do in our prosaic furrows—air bright all day with humming-birds and butterflies, all night with the phosphoric glow of luminous insects—contribute to make a scene of enchanting beauty. Then who has not heard of the far-famed Pitch Lake of La Brea, formerly ranked as one of “the wonders of the world,” which covers ninety-nine acres, and contains millions of tons of soft asphaltum; owing its origin to buried vegetable matter, which in a temperate climate like our own would have become peat, but here in a tropical country forms an admixture of asphalt and oil, which being forced down by the weight of the soil above is compelled to come to the surface, and so oozes up continually? Yet one can walk all over the lake, the firmer portions of pitch forming stepping-stones; you may also dip your hand in the oozing liquid, and it will be withdrawn without stain of any kind, owing to the presence of sand in the mixture, which in commerce necessarily renders this pitch less valuable than others. This Pitch Lake is not precisely a thing of beauty, but that it is of practical utility is proved by the fact that a syndicate of English and American capitalists pay £12,000 annually for the privilege of winning pitch from its comparatively inexhaustible basin. An Indian tradition, related in Joseph’s “History of Trinidad,” has it that La Brea was formerly dry land, and inhabited by the Chaima tribe of Indians; but that the “Good Spirit,” incensed at their having wantonly destroyed the

humming-birds, supposed to have been animated with the spirits of their deceased relatives, sank the whole village one night; the Pitch Lake representing the spot where it formerly stood.

The Mud Volcanoes, another natural curiosity of the island, are situated at a place rejoicing in the prehistoric name of Monkeytown, distant a few miles from Princetown, which can be reached by rail. They are a ludicrous sight, being conical mounds about three feet in height, and vomiting forth muddy water with the same ardour that Vesuvius or Etna pour forth their floods of lava. The vicinity of these insignificant craters is strikingly described by the old negro who acted as guide to Kingsley: "Dere de debbil's wood-yard, war him come out at night, and walk 'bout;" and who declined making one of a nocturnal hunting-party, on the ground of "too much jumbies h'ar!"

The tourist should not leave the island before undertaking the ride over the Saddle, a hill dividing Maraval Valley—where is the Moka estate, which should be the best grazing-land in Trinidad, from its well-watered situation, though now, I believe, under cacao—from that of Santa Cruz; the scenery being most beautiful, and the view from the summit sublime. The "Blue Basin" is also another favourite excursion, and picnic parties thither are of frequent occurrence.

Trinidad is about the size of Lancashire, being 1754 square miles, or 1,152,000 acres, and it is situated about sixteen miles to the eastward of Venezuela; the Gulf of Paria separating it from the continent of South America. Less than one-tenth of its area is cultivated, although as a British colony it is older than Victoria, Queensland, or New Zealand. This is entirely owing to the former pernicious rule of the Spaniards; and, indeed, were it

not now a British possession, it would in these days have been a second Cuba, or a hatch-plotting centre for that revolutionary republic of Venezuela. As a matter of fact, when I was myself staying at one of the hotels, at least a dozen Venezuelan colonels used nightly to meet their head-centre there, and privately plot the overthrow of the then President and his Government.

Until 1783 no progress whatever was made; then, owing to representations made to the Court of Spain, concerning the extraordinary fertility of the island, special advantages were offered to all foreigners going to reside there, the adoption of the Roman Catholic religion being the sole condition imposed. There was consequently a large influx, soon augmented by numerous French-refugees, driven from St. Domingo and other places by the terrible events of the French Revolution; the latter accounting for the preponderance of the French element in a colony which never belonged to France. However, thank Heaven! in 1797, after the dispersal of the Armada, Admiral Harvey frightened the Spanish admiral into burning his ships, and General Abercrombie led four thousand men to the easy capture of the Port of Spain; since which Trinidad has become an increasingly thriving colony. It would ill become me, even in writing so briefly on these stirring events, were I to glorify the British arms at the expense of the wise and patriotic Spanish governor, Chacon, whose name appears with that of the two officers mentioned above as co-signee to the articles of capitulation. Suffice it to say that he exhibited marvellous sagacity during his rule, under circumstances that would have tried the fortitude and diplomacy of the bravest among ourselves; that he was disgracefully served by his countrymen, and, after a life of exile and penury in Portugal, was honourably acquitted

of all blame; but he was on his death-bed, in a wretched Portuguese inn, when his son brought him the news that his honour was cleared at last. I am sure that, should any of the noble Spanish families now living in this beautiful island ever have cause to take up this book, they cannot but feel grateful to Charles Kingsley for the noble words which follow: "Thus ended—as earth's best men have often ended—the good Don Alonzo Chacon. His only monument in the island is one, after all *perennius*; namely, that most beautiful flowering shrub which bears his name—Warsewiczia, some call it; others Calycophyllum; but the botanists of the island continue loyally the name of Chaconia to those blazing crimson spikes which every Christmas-tide renew, throughout the wild forests of which he would have made a civilized garden, the memory of the last and best of the Spanish governors."

Port of Spain, at which we land, is the chief town, containing no less than 35,000 persons, out of a population for the whole island of about 170,000. It is a magnificent tropical city, boasting of two cathedrals, a most imposing Government block of buildings, a town hall, court house, and theatre, with military and police barracks that would make our men at home envious could they but see them; to say nothing of the street-rows of stores and other places of business, and substantial and picturesque private houses, both in the town and suburbs of Laventille, Belmont, and St. Anne's.

The harbour is gradually receding, so to speak, from the land, and an alluvial ground of rich matter will eventually flank the town on its sea side. Port of Spain stands low, but well above the water; an imposing square, with a double row of tropical trees down the centre, fronts the quay; and on either side are well-built houses, the

lower part of concrete, which—from having, as a rule, no windows for the display of stores as in our own towns, everything being kept well behind the counters—rather present the appearance of rows of stables; but the upper portions are of wood, with overhanging verandahs completely shading the pavements; no glass in the windows, save here and there for exigencies of climate, but wooden jalousies; and upstairs it will be particularly observable that there are no fireplaces.

The stores, or shops, are full of every kind of provision, and all trades are carried on as in our own country. Goods are by no means expensive; but the most costly fabrics may be obtained; and the Ice-house, common to every town of importance in the West Indies, dispenses its necessary staple to the daily crowds below; while above, partakers of drinks innumerable slip particles of the same into their various compounds.

The fair population are dressed in the very latest Paris and New York fashions, and the coloured folk in the gaudiest turbans, stiff petticoats, and graceful scarfs that Manchester can supply; every one apparently eating something all day, and this although there are some eight thousand human beings in Port of Spain without visible means of existence; these latter eating when they can get anything, and sleeping in the sun when they can't.

The temperature averages from 72° at dawn to 88° at noon, and occasionally reaches 93°, while at the beginning of the year it sinks as low as 68° at night. I remember, when sleeping at a cacao plantation at a high elevation, that I woke shivering, and, as there were no blankets, was glad to pull my coat and mackintosh over me as a substitute; and indeed one gentleman, to whom I am indebted for much kind hospitality, was accustomed to

close the openings of his carriage when driving by the Queen's Park after leaving his place of business for the day.

In fact, my experience of the climate of Trinidad—where for three months I moved about much as at home, rode miles in the heat of the day, was never indisposed for a single hour, never tasted quinine or a single cocktail, and only when in the outlying districts put a dash of whisky in the water, of which I drank freely—enables me to recommend it as one quite suitable for Europeans to dwell in and enjoy. I consider the above statement necessary, in case the detrimental impressions with regard to climate left upon Mr. Froude's mind might deter readers of his book from proceeding to this most charming island. This is what he writes: "To walk is difficult in a damp, steamy temperature, hotter during daylight than the hottest forcing-house in Kew. I was warned not to exert myself and to take cocktail freely. In the evening, I might venture out with the bats, and take a drive if I wished in the twilight. Languidly charming as it all was, I could not help asking myself of what use such a possession could be either to England or the English nation. We could not colonize it, could not cultivate it, could not draw a revenue from it." I must beg to differ *in toto* from Mr. Froude, both as regards the climate and the political future of Trinidad, but I think the following passage sufficiently explains his objections to the former: "When the sky cleared, the sun was intolerably hot, and distant expeditions under such conditions *suitéd neither my age nor my health.*" For a living example to the contrary, we have its indefatigable Governor, Sir William Robinson, playing cricket in the sunshine; and turning to Charles Kingsley, who lived an untiring active life during his Christmas visit thither, we find him saying,

"An atmosphere in which the mere act of breathing is a pleasure;" again, "It is not true that the climate is too enervating. I have seen enough in Trinidad to say that in the West Indies, as elsewhere, a young man may be pure, able, high-minded, *industrious, athletic.*"

Then, with regard to the political future of Trinidad, I quite think that when its resources are fully known to the young men of Great Britain and Ireland (and I trust sincerely that, however feebly, this Guide Book may dispel many erroneous impressions, and open up the West Indies generally as a very mine of unexplored wealth to the energetic and experienced agriculturist and manufacturer), we shall still see Rodney's "ten-acre men," as advised by him to colonize St. Lucia in 1778, who, with their capital of a hundred pounds apiece, and by their examples of thrift and industry, will gradually wean the coloured population from their present idle state. Men of larger capital would soon follow, and the negroes, finding, as at Barbados, that work and good pay were in the long-run more profitable than sloth and no funds, would "work with interest and goodwill, and cling to their employers with an innocent affection." Failing so welcome an immigration, I should be inclined to adopt the views of Mr. L. Hearn, a recent American traveller, who thinks that "in Trinidad, where immense English capital has been invested, and where the coolie population is intelligent and powerful enough to supplant the African, that the former will become the masters of the future;" and the following pregnant statement by another writer, "that it must be remembered that while the negro families increase very slowly, the coolies increase very rapidly, being more kind and careful parents," would seem to bear out the above opinion. If such eventually be so, Mr. Froude's ideal West Indian Government on

the real East Indian basis would here, at all events, be easy of accomplishment.

Outside the town, on either side the way, are the private residences of the merchants—very picturesque and delightful places, raised above the ground, and embowered in a richness of vegetation to which the contents of the most beautiful conservatory one ever saw bears but a poor comparison. The tramcar, a most admirable conveyance for residents on business intent, should be carefully ignored by the visitor during his first walk out of the town, otherwise he will miss a proper sight of these bowers of bliss. We presently arrive at the Queen's Park, commonly called the Savannah (as all open plains are named in Spain), boasting the largest racecourse in the world, and round which, a distance of some three miles, all who can drive in every conceivable conveyance at four p.m.; and here the richer residents live; Government House, a palatial structure of native limestone, built on the Indian model at a cost of £45,000, standing at the further side, flanked by lofty hills, and situated in a Botanical Garden second to none in creation, in which are to be found plants and trees from every tropical land. The Police Band discourses sweet music here on stated occasions, while society disports itself as in Hyde Park or Kensington Gardens. "After passing the Savana," says the *Barbados and West Indian Directory*, "we traverse the lands formerly known as the St. Clair Estate, and now taken over by the Government and converted into a cattle farm and dairy on a large scale. The primary object of this was to provide the Colonial Hospital and other institutions with pure milk at a cheap rate; but of late years some very superior cattle of the East Indian zebu breed have been raised there, and subsequently sold, thereby improving the breed of

cattle in the island, and realizing a handsome profit for the farm. At the end of December, 1885, the stock comprised 220 cows, 16 zebu bulls, and 4 Indian buffaloes. In November, 1886, an English hackney stallion was added to the stock of the farm." This latter was not a success, though whether this was owing to his appearance, climatic influences, or local prejudice, I know not. A superb jackass, imported at great expense from Malta by a private resident some years previously, met with the same fate; and a racing English stallion of former celebrity was, I believe, not much better treated. When at Trinidad, I took some interest in the question of exporting racers from England, and obtained the opinion of Mr. John Dawson, of Newmarket, on the subject; and knowing how many gentlemen on the island are interested in racing, I am sure his statement will be considered of some value. He wrote as follows:—"I doubt the speculation of sending horses such a distance as Trinidad; the expense and risk that would be incurred in sending them, etc., would scarcely be so good an investment as keeping those that *can* run in this country; having races here of every description, and almost every day in the week. It seems to me that America is the most likely country to supply horses for Trinidad, being so much nearer; and they are breeding almost as much as we are now."

In addition to the necessarily limited and consequently meagre description I have given above of the sights and sounds connected with this splendid island, must be added a population composed of Africanders, Hindoos, Chinese, and every European and American race, who in the crowded streets of Port of Spain are literally mixed up with cabs and other vehicles of Yankee build, flocks of tame vultures, tick-birds, dogs, goats, and other

strange cattle; and as the stranger wanders "promiscuous like" through this intermingling conglomeration of humans and otherwise, he gets as bewildering and charming a scene as can well be imagined; all the time a champagne atmosphere expanding his organs of sight and hearing, until he fancies he must indeed be a living actor in some marvellous "Arabian Nights" adventure.

San Fernando is the next important town, having a population of about 6500; it can be reached by rail in two hours, or by the more enjoyable steamer trip, and the visitor will find it a thriving little place, albeit suffering from the usual sugar depression. Arima, a prosperous little town, the last resort of the conquered Caribs, of whom there is now no trace, about sixteen miles to the east of the capital, on another branch of the railway, has been recently granted municipal privileges by the home authorities; it is steadily progressing, and is destined, when the country becomes more developed, to be a place of considerable importance. With an allusion to St. Joseph, the ancient Spanish capital, situated about six miles from Port of Spain, and one of the two junctions on the line of rail; and Prince's Town, about seven miles from San Fernando, the list of towns on the island is exhausted.

As regards watering-places, Trinidad is well off. The Five Islands—on which residences are erected that are hired out at the rate of forty dollars a month—are a favourite resort of invalids, and newly married couples, too, are wont to spend the honeymoon in their refreshing solitude. At Monos and Gasporillo, there are also residences which can be rented by the month; while at Chacachacave, a sanatorium has been established by Dr. Chittenden. For those who do not care for marine seclusion, the valleys of Santa Cruz and Maracay offer

the advantages of easy access to town, together with a salubrious climate and capital bathing in the crystal streams that flow through them; and in both these valleys commodious residences can be hired by the month at moderate rates.

Turning now to the productions of this truly remarkable island, we find an encouraging aspect. For Trinidad has not to depend for its prosperity on the produce of other lands; its soil is fertile to a degree, and its produce is extensive and varied. According to the last assessment in 1887, there was—

			Acres.
Cultivated in sugar-cane	..	..	52,163
" cacao and coffee	..	..	43,363
" coco-nuts	..	..	2,767
" ground provisions	..	..	18,053
" pasture	..	..	6,242

and yet, as has been stated above, not one-tenth of its surface is under cultivation.

Its "cocoa" of commerce is, with that of Grenada, the best produced in any country, and amounts to a yearly export of tens of millions of pounds; while its useful coco-nuts are either converted in the island itself into oil, and their outer husks manufactured into brushes, mats, etc., or exported to this country for confectionery and other purposes. Tobacco is also becoming a fruitful source of industry, and promises to be a remunerative enterprise, if cultivated with due care. Its pitch and petroleum have been before mentioned. Coffee is destined to rival cacao in its peculiar fitness for cultivation here; and if we add rum, molasses, valuable timber of every kind, hazel-nuts, and most varieties of tropical fruits, it surely needs no particular urging on my part to show what a country (within a fortnight of the old home) exists, ready to receive any number of enterprising young settlers who are on the look-out for a land

where they may reasonably hope to succeed, and where so many have, and are flourishing at the present time.

On a Good Friday afternoon I left this delectable land, having attended Morning Service at the Cathedral, and for the last time listened to that most excellent and lowly Bishop, Dr. Rawle,* a man respected and admired alike by all denominations. It was, in a sense, sad to say "Good-bye" to such kind friends and to so beautiful an island; but once again on deck, one's thoughts turned homeward, though still with an unsatisfied longing for further strange and unwonted sights, which one knew would be fully gratified before we joined the Transatlantic liner at St. Thomas;† for we were purposely going the long way round, in order to touch at all the principal islands of the Windward and Leeward groups.

We gazed with regretful interest at Trinidad's receding shores, with a determination to do our best to induce others to settle there, confident that a pleasant and hopeful life is open to all intending residents who are possessed of energy and determination to succeed.

GRENADA.

These emerald gems in the ocean, at which we arrived during all hours either of the day or night, are one and all, in their several degrees, waiting for the tide of emigration to turn in their favour; and it is the general opinion of those at home in touch with popular sentiment, that the tide is turning, and requires merely judicious guidance, to presently flow steadily towards these strangely neglected colonies.

* Since appointed Principal of Codrington College, Barbados.

† Since 1885, the Royal Mail Steamship Company have given up calling at St. Thomas, so that passengers, after doing the grand tour, must return to tranship at Barbados, for the homeward passage.

A most extraordinary and weird scene, in the bright moonlight, was this flitting from island to island; and when our signal-gun announced to the silent land that passengers and letters were close at hand, and presently in the distance could be heard the splash of the approaching boat, which, soon alongside, received its share of what we had on board, took its abrupt departure, ourselves then gliding off again into the space of water, we really seemed to be taking part in a veritable moving panorama, and to sort of scan the distance in search of rows of heads appearing above the foot-lights, beyond the seething gleam from our lamps on board.

Grenada, the first of these gems, with its capital, George Town, whose rocks, streets, and, in main part, houses are composed of lava, reminding one of the unstable formation of these islands—though not more so than many better-known and populous centres of commerce—is a most charming island. When we anchored, shortly before dark, the spectacle presented by the houses dotted all up the steep hills, with their red roofs peeping out from among the palms and bananas, and in many cases flanked with huge shrubs of frangipani, was a most pleasing one; and when, in company with a friend and fellow-traveller, we were presently enchanted with the most glorious tropical sunset we had yet had the pleasure of beholding, our feelings of surprise and delight are not to be described.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus in 1498, by whom it was named Ascension, and in 1674 was annexed to France; but, after changing hands once or twice, was restored to Great Britain by the Treaty of Versailles, in 1783. The country is exceedingly picturesque, the green hills topping one another in all directions; the effect, as viewed from an inland point of vantage, being similar to much of the scenery found in Wales; while its successive

THE ISLANDS OF THE LESSER ANTILLES.

piles of conical mounds covered with vast forest trees and brushwood, and its fertile valleys interspersed with numerous rivulets, make it appear a truly delightful place to live in. The climate is peculiarly soft and healthy, the mean temperature being about 82° .

A rough road, showing too plainly the want of competent surveyorship (as displayed in that excellent mountain military road to Fort George, Trinidad, and similar undertakings in India), connects the two principal towns, and, crossing as it does innumerable ravines and watercourses, is well worthy of being followed by the tourist; though, for practices of ordinary utility, its break-neck inclines and dangerous slopes prevent the transit of heavy goods, which therefore have to go round by sea. After inspecting various small craters, one inside the other, the eye is directed upwards to the central peak of Mount Maitland, 1700 feet high; a most remarkable natural curiosity being the Grand Etang, a lake in the centre of a mountain range, seven miles from St. George (George Town), and which, surrounded as it is by tree-ferns and bamboos, is extremely beautiful. There is also another lake, that of Antoine, and near Black Bay are considerable remains of basaltic columns.

The island of Carriacou, which has an area of 6913 acres, and is joined in government with Grenada, we shall pass on our way to St. Vincent. It is the largest of the Grenadines, and is prospering quietly but steadily.

Grenada is, with Trinidad, the land of the cultivation of cacao, the trade being every year more developed, and during the last eleven years the exportation has increased some twelve thousand bags (value, say, £55,000); so the small capitalist may choose between the two, as far as this industry is concerned; as may also the intending agent or resident manager.

The soil is very fertile; cotton, spices, and coffee, and from Carriacou ground provisions and live stock, forming an agreeable variation to its staple products of sugar and cacao. Whale oil is also exported to the extent of some five thousand gallons yearly; the Grenadines abounding with these sea-denizens during the spring months.

Special attention is, moreover, being directed to the more careful culture of the principal tropical fruits, and considering the annual increase in the trade with the United States alone in such perishable luxuries, when sometimes whole cargoes of bananas, plantains, etc., rot on the voyage, and yet have to be replaced to suit the growing tastes of the citizens of the West—it does not require any very keen prophetic vision to foresee one means at least of renewed commercial activity.

In Grenada, as elsewhere, the example of half a dozen planters, determined to make a trade in tropical fruits, and bestowing a like care upon their cultivation, as formerly upon their orchards in the old country, would soon put the resident planters upon their mettle, and anon we should hear of the spacious harbour of the Carénage being thronged with ships of merchandise; for as “nothing succeeds like success,” other industries would also arise, and necessitate means of transport to far-off countries; so that not only the “stars and stripes,” but flags of all nations would convey away the products of Grenada, till her name would again become familiar as another centre of West Indian commercial enterprise.

Further, Mr. Morris, in his paper on the “Vegetable Resources of the West Indies,” read before the London Chamber of Commerce, remarks: “Spices, such as nutmegs, cloves, and cardamoms, have been successfully established in Grenada, where also Colonel Duncan has

shown what may be done with old sugar estates, to render them most productive and remunerative. *This island is destined to become the Spice Island of the West.* The export of spices from Grenada in 1885 amounted to 987 hundredweights, of the value of £5526."

For the intending settler, it may be interesting to learn that land, good and unplanted, sells at £20 to £30 per acre; land in the mountains in the interior, uncultivated realizes £4 to £10 per acre; land planted in nutmegs (trees fifteen to twenty years old and upwards) yields £50 to £100 per acre per annum—with a capital value even at five years' purchase very great.

What a delightful and withal expressive title for Grenada—the "Spice Island of the West"!

In drawing this desirable picture of a resuscitated colony, I have been careful to ascribe such renewed vitality to a small beginning, viz. the successful cultivation of that which is already in wild profusion; for it is from little ventures that great successes arise; and I resolutely put my foot down upon any heroic remedial agencies against depression. I am thoroughly convinced, both from what I have seen and heard, that were the West Indies now peopled with men imbued with the spirit of the pioneers of Rodney's time, so far from depression being the order of the day, the natural resources of each island would be fully developed; the coloured population would have to work, or give place to those who would; and, faced by such determination to succeed, the Home Government would perforce select the colonial legislators of the future from among those who had demonstrated by their individual successes their aptitude for attending to the affairs of the community at large. Meanwhile, as stated in my introductory remarks, I am all for the thin edge of the wedge being introduced with-

out delay,—viz. the popular election of non-official members of the councils—confident that the good sense of the voters in the several districts would prevent their exercising the franchise prejudicially to their own interests. For it must be borne in mind, that were men of inaction and frothy politics, ignorant alike of success and sober reflection, called upon to determine laws over those who had rescued their colonies from the effects of their own mismanagement, such would be tantamount to putting a premium upon sloth and want of acumen, which would cause a more serious exodus than has ever yet taken place; while the energy and capital of new-comers would be deterred from embarking in a country where, however otherwise desirable as a field of enterprise, dummy-heads would be permitted to hold sway over better and wiser men.

That Grenada is endeavouring to push to the front again, the following remarks by a recent writer fully testify: "It is getting remarked for the cacao it produces. It has had to struggle against much adverse circumstances. Its present position leaves much to be desired, but the mere fact of its being no worse off is a proof of latent strength and energy which should encourage its well-wishers. This island possesses all the necessary elements to ensure success." This, to the outsider, may seem qualifying praise, but nevertheless those acquainted with the depression from which the West Indies as a body are only now fairly emerging, will recognize a deeper significance in those words. Add to this, that the climate is healthy, the death-rate being only 2·21 per cent.; that every occupier of even two or three acres may, if diligent, be comfortable; that about five thousand acres of land are actually so; that the small Grenada, a small proper active, bearing cacao,

coco-nut, kola, tea, coffee, tobacco, nutmegs, cloves, ginger, and other spices; further consider that each and every such product is a source of wealth; also that turtles have merely to be lifted from the shore, and conveyed on board steamers, to fetch a high price in the London market; and that whales can be harpooned among the Grenadines, and their blubber melted down into sperm oil, while their flexible bones are ever in demand; and that this colony merely requires a little extra labour and capital to make it that desirable centre of commerce which I have already endeavoured to pourtray.

Reflecting seriously over these facts, one cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that when these circumstances are fully known and understood by the youth, ay, and the middle-aged men of serious conviction in Great Britain and Ireland, many will avail themselves of that knowledge, by setting out to a land that offers them so much for so little expenditure of labour and capital.

THE GRENADINES.

To these I must necessarily refer but very briefly. Not that the energetic men who inhabit them, and prosper in their quiet way, are undeserving of a whole Guide Book to themselves; but that, in the limited space I have at command, I cannot properly do them justice. Suffice it, then, that on leaving Grenada, and between that colony and St. Vincent, there lie some six hundred small islands, stretching in a line for sixty miles or more. These are chiefly subject to the government of the latter, though, as previously mentioned, Carriacou, the largest and most populous, is under that of Grenada. They mostly bear names descriptive of their distant appearance, such as Castle Island, Sail Island, Is'le of Birds, Moustique;

and while the larger ones are suitable for stock-raising, ground provisions, and the growth on a small scale of other staple products, the smaller are but bare protuberances from the sea. Kingsley, who was ever ready to bear witness to worth for worth's sake, thus speaks of their inhabitants: "A quiet prosperous race of little yeomen, beside a few planters, dwell there; the latter feeding and exporting much stock, the former much provisions, and both troubling themselves less than of yore with sugar and cotton. They build coasting vessels, and trade with them to the larger islands; and they might be, it is said, if they chose, much richer than they are—if that be any good to them."

This presents a most tempting picture; and many a hardy north-country man, or Irish coasting peasant, could speedily develop trade from any of these tight little islands.

ST. VINCENT.

This island, with its conical mountains, cleft by leafy valleys, which rise in a central mass of spires round which a rocky coast is raised, is remarkable for its having remained in undisputed possession of the Caribs until as late a date as 1627; and, in fact, until 1675, no steps were taken to colonize it. There appear to have been two distinct races here—the "Yellow" Caribs proper, and the other termed "Black" Caribs. These aborigines, after being allotted ample territory, and living peacefully and in prosperous condition under British rule, openly rebelled against the Government at the breaking-out of the French Revolution, and, assisted by their allies (the French), overran the country, burning the cane-fields, plundering the houses, and mercilessly murdering the



English colonists. Succours were sent from Martinique, then the British head-quarters, and in June, 1796, after an obstinate struggle, the insurgents surrendered at discretion to the reinforcements under Sir Ralph Abercrombie; and on the 11th of March, 1797, the Caribs, to the number of 5080, were transported to the island of Rattan, in the Bay of Honduras.

As stated previously, most of the principal islands of the Grenadines, including Bequia, situated at a distance of nine miles from the mainland, are comprised within the government of this colony.

St. Vincent, though exhibiting some features in common with the other islands, is favourably distinguished from them by an undulating surface and a succession of gentle slopes, of which portions are cultivated for sugarcane. It is famous for its fearful earthquake of March 26, 1812, followed by an awful volcanic eruption from the crater of the "Souffrière," which shattered the mountain and wrought havoc and desolation around; its fiery streams of lava, and showers of pulverized ashes, repeating in very truth the scenes attending the overwhelming of the Cities of the Plain, or those by a similar agency of Pompeii and Herculaneum. For three days the island was enveloped in chaotic gloom; while Barbados, one hundred miles west, was covered inches thick with dust and ashes, and the light of the sun obscured during the whole day, its terror-stricken inhabitants being convinced that the end of the world had come. The story goes that a negro boy, reported to be still living on the island, was herding cattle on the slopes of this volcano when the first few stones were scattered down its sides, and that, thinking another lad was pelting him, he returned the missiles in the direction of his supposed concealed assailant; but finding the dropping stones

increasing both in size and number, he at length perceived that "the steam mitrailleuse of the Titans" was pelting him, and so took to his heels and fled for his life.

Kingstown, the capital, is a long, straggling town; consisting of three principal streets, each about a mile long, and the whole stretches along the sea and mountains, at the bottom of an extensive bay. A backbone of densely wooded mountain traverses it from north to south, sending off spurs on each side; the highest peak, four thousand feet, being that of Morne à Garon. Trees and other substances are frequently found imbedded in lava, and a rich black mould exists in the valleys, the higher lands being mixed with volcanic ashes.

The sugar plantations here are but sparsely worked, though planters still cling to hopes of more remunerative times, and the result of the "Sugar Bounties Conference" will no doubt inspire fresh courage; but their coolie importation must be better managed, if they are still desirous of foreign labour. The island at present is passing through a most acute period of depression, and estates may be bought at a reasonable rate; it is very desirable as a dwelling-place, and healthy, besides having much picturesque scenery, and the advent of a few small capitalists of resolute character and energy would do much in effecting an advance in its trade, besides stimulating those already residing there to fresh exertions on their own behalf.

It is pleasant to be able to point to St. Vincent as "the island of arrowroot," the best in the world, but which unfortunately is rather a drug in the market at present. It would seem that some other use must be found for this important staple of industry, if it is to be cultivated successfully; and from the fineness of its powder, one would think it could be mixed with coarser

meals, and so form a substantial cake for feeding cattle. The cultivation of cacao is proceeding apace, and there is ample room for a still further development. But there is a more important crop than any of these, for which St. Vincent is well fitted, providing always that a market can be found for its production. I allude to the cultivation of tea. "The tea-plant in itself is very hardy, and grows everywhere. The chief problems, however, are connected with maintaining the plant in a constant state of growth (that is, securing for it a warm, humid, and forcing climate) to ensure large 'flushes;' and to have at hand an abundant supply of cheap labour."* It must, moreover, be grown in well-sheltered situations, to escape hurricanes, and in localities beyond the influence of prolonged droughts. Coffee plantations in Ceylon have recently been turned wholesale into tea-gardens, and now it is the fashion for every one to drink Ceylon tea; why then should not many of the old sugar estates in St. Vincent, situated on the slopes of the thickly timbered protecting woods, be treated likewise? Let a tea industry be, then, established here, to meet the mere local demand, which might reasonably be expected to increase; and the avoidance of the existing import duty of one shilling would more than cover the extra cost of labour required. Looking at that all-important factor in the successful cultivation of tea, the condition of the labour market, we find that St. Vincent actually swarms with skilled labour, which, for adequate pay and regular employment, is ever at hand. Of negroes, a vast number of whom "squat" upon the unsurveyed and unoccupied Crown lands, there are tens of thousands; there are about two thousand coolies imported by the sugar-planters, and something less than two hundred Caribs, who are noted for

* *Kew Bulletin* for 1887.

their intrepidity in shipping cargo through the breakers ; in addition to all these, skilled labour other than coloured could be obtained, for it is but some forty years since 2400 Portuguese labourers emigrated thither, and, I believe, many of them and their descendants are at the present time living on the island.

It would appear, then, that this colony offers such advantages for tea-growing, both as regards climate and situation, as well as in its superabundance of skilled labour, that capitalists of fair means should make no delay in buying up old sugar estates suitable for this purpose.

Products similar to those of Grenada are to be found here, and only await the careful cultivation of man to yield in profusion. The old proprietors having mostly ceased to reside in the island, their one sheet-anchor, cane, proving unworthy of such implicit trust as was placed in it, is a strong inducement for young men to lose no time in emigrating thither ; for here, if anywhere, they will find themselves untrammelled by the erroneous ideas of former settlers, and better able, than in more populated islands, to follow out those principles of thrift and industry which they have learned at home. The very fact of St. Vincent being about the least prosperous community of any in the West Indies, although blest with all nature can provide for the sustenance of mankind, amply proves that hitherto the natural resources of the island have been undeveloped, and that, like Tobago and Dominica, there is here a wonderful field for enterprise.

At the risk of reiteration, one cannot but declaim on the folly of thinking that a one-crop cultivation can end in anything but disaster, no matter what the nature of the plant, or the climate and soil of the land where such be grown. For home consumption, then, let everything

be grown that the island will produce; and if, in the case of Grenada, I have advocated special attention to the practical cultivation of fruit and spices, and here, in St. Vincent, lean rather to a modification in the use of its well-known but unremunerative arrowroot, and in addition have drawn special notice to a new crop, viz. tea, it is equally my intention to advocate their special and several affinities for these productions, as it is my earnest desire to prevent any return of one-crop worship.

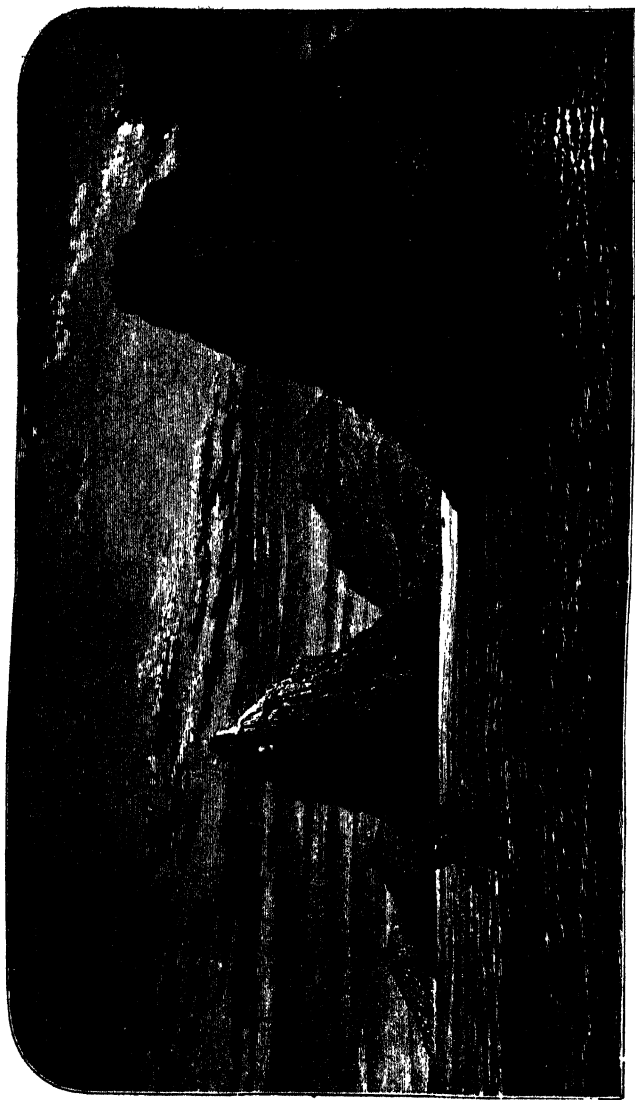
Therefore in advising, where the islands are so similarly situated, different objects of cultivation for each, I would wish that each should prosper in its own products, and not, by endeavouring to produce the same, hinder the well-doing of either community. For the present, then, at all events, let each colony endeavour to help on its neighbour, and by embarking in industries different to those undertaken by the adjacent island, prevent the markets, both at home and abroad, from being clogged with the overplus of a mere single commodity.

No misguided traveller or feeble tourist having denied to St. Vincent its properties as a health-restoring and peculiarly attractive place of residence, it may be accepted without demur that its reputation as such is thoroughly deserved. There are moreover medicinal springs, from which the settler may derive much benefit; and if the *fer-de-lance* is occasionally to be encountered, and descendants, albeit not pure, of the famous Caribs still linger on the island, the emigrant need not poke the one up with a stick, but give it a wide berth, and, to his surprise, will find the latter of mild temperature, and of more service perhaps than any other man of colour in the colony.

ST. LUCIA.

On the way from St. Vincent to St. Lucia, we again dropped anchor at Barbados, arriving there on the morning of Easter Sunday. After the pleasure of once again breakfasting on land in an English-conducted hotel, and there being confronted by a huge railway placard, on which, to my no small surprise, one's own surname appeared as the designatory title of one of the four stations of the Barbados Railroad; many of us enjoyed the privilege of attending divine service in the Cathedral, and the effect produced by the voices of white and coloured folk alike, joining in the familiar Easter hymn, was peculiarly striking to us, coming straight from a world of waters, where, on board ship, one day is not very materially different from another. As the *s.s. Solent* proceeds on her way, we may well reflect, as we all too soon lose sight of the thoroughly and highly cultivated Barbadian shores—marked by its sugar estates, each with its group of buildings, tall chimney, or windmill, and cluster of cabbage-palms—how much we owe to this, the oldest of these British colonies, for her valour and allegiance in the past, and for her present example of negro industry, which have so largely contributed to the former prosperity, and we may hope the future also, of the island.

St. Lucia, to myself, and, I doubt not, to many others, the most serenely magnificent of all these precious settings in the chain of the Lesser Antilles, now presents itself to the spectator's astonished gaze; and as one glides softly between its two sentinel Pitons, it is with bated breath and awestruck vision, and with a new-born consciousness of our own littleness, that we are aware of the stupendous vastness of these giant Needles.



ST. LUCIA.

cone. Pigeon Island, a headlong rock, six miles from the harbour, which played so important a part in the naval wars for supremacy—behind which Rodney's fleet lay at anchor, while he daily reconnoitred from the summit for the approach of the French fleet—is a capital watch-tower, and has accommodation for five hundred men.

As the prosperity of Barbados is greatly enhanced by the frequent arrival of the Atlantic liners, so would that of St. Lucia be much stimulated by a similar advent of the mails direct from England. Most advantageously situated, as central between the groups of Leeward and Windward Islands, with a superb harbour and healthy surroundings, St. Lucia may justly claim the honour of being the one island really suitable for such a purpose; and indeed the different steam companies are now fully aware of the repugnance of many passengers, in being carried straight from Europe into the little narrow harbour of St. Thomas, so accurately stated by Kingsley to be "as veritable a Dutch oven for cooking fever in, with as veritable a dripping-pan for the poison, when concocted in the tideless basin below the town, as man ever invented."

As a matter of fact, of late years, the advantages of the harbour of Castries, the safest in the West Indies, have been increasingly appreciated by steamships, as a port of call and coaling station; and the British Government having wisely chosen it as such for the British Navy, recommending the expenditure of £60,000 for putting the port in a state of effective defence, the colony responding cheerfully and ungrudgingly by deepening the harbour and building up solid walls of concrete to enable the largest vessels of the Royal Navy to lie alongside, is an additional reason for the mail steamers to make direct for this port, as well for its central position, safe harbour, and healthy surroundings, as for its facilities for easy

coaling. I should like to hear of Barbados and St. Lucia being visited alternately by these mail Atlantic liners, so that each should receive in turn the benefits arising from the presence, however brief, of such floating hotels in their waters.

Moreover, St. Lucia will soon be an important centre of society, for the rebuilding of the barracks to accommodate a garrison of one thousand soldiers has put more life into the place; and the merchants know well what a stimulus to the local provision trade alone will be given by their presence. So what with the sailors, soldiers, and, it is to be hoped, passengers of the Atlantic liners, St. Lucia will ere long become a fashionable watering-place and a prosperous commercial station; and we may be sure that the adjacent islands will not fail to reap some benefit from this agreeable state of affairs.

Before touching on the products capable of cultivation in this island, let us turn to its past history; from which we gather that St. Lucia remained in the possession of the aborigines until 1635, when it received its first French settlers, who were followed in the year 1639 by some English emigrants, but French and English alike were all murdered the following year by the Caribs. However, in 1642, the French again took possession, and concluded a treaty of peace with the natives in 1660. After this, the island was conquered and reconquered, time after time, by the two great contending parties of French and English, until, in 1782, Rodney took up his position in Gros Ilet Bay, with a fleet of thirty-six sail of the line, from whence he pursued Count de Grasse, and gained the memorable victory of the 12th of April in that year. However, the Peace of Versailles again restored the island to the French; but on the declaration of war against revolutionary France, the West Indies became

the scene of a series of naval and military operations, and St. Lucia was surrendered to the British arms in 1794. But in 1795, when so many of these colonies were overrun by the mutinous Caribs, the slaves, and their allies the French, it became necessary to send twelve thousand troops under Abercrombie and Admiral Christian, to their aid; and from April 26 to May 26, 1796, St. Lucia was the scene of an obstinate and sanguinary contest, which resulted in the insurgents laying down their arms and surrendering as prisoners of war. As if all this were not enough to make this island a confirmed British colony, we actually find, that in 1802 it was again restored to France by the Peace of Amiens; however, in the year following, on the renewal of hostilities, it capitulated, and since June 22, 1803, has continued under British rule.

It must never be forgotten that to Rodney's wise counsel may be assigned the fact of our now being in possession of this impregnable island, instead of the neighbouring French colony of Martinique, which was so long the head-quarters of the British troops.

In consequence of seemingly authoritative reports as to a reputed unhealthiness, detrimental to St. Lucia's prosperity, having been circulated in the past—although the mere fact of the British Government having selected this island as the head-quarters of a large garrison is of itself a sufficient denial—I feel bound to state that official statistics prove such slanders to be utterly groundless. For a tropical place of residence, St. Lucia is singularly healthy; its harbour is sweet and clean (one of the very reasons why I recommend all vessels to come direct here, instead of courting fever in the abominable stew-basin of St. Thomas), and its soil well drained, while its climate is most beneficent; Europeans working with comfort in its cacao and other shady plantations. But figures and

facts published and approved by authority speak for themselves: "The population of St. Lucia is forty-one thousand, and its death-rate during the last fourteen years averaged less than 2½ per cent. annually."

Again, with regard to the presence of deadly serpents, truth has been swallowed up in fiction. It is indeed a theme so common to the imagination or gullibility of the traveller, that on being buttonholed by a confirmed narrator of snake stories—and what in the way of all that is marvellous, truth being a secondary consideration, is not this tribe guilty of?—he listens with breathless attention, and jots down in his log-book, for future production before an admiring public, anecdotes of the demon-like atrocity of the *fer-de-lance*, which, not content with lying in wait for tender sucklings, in very truth trails like a bloodhound the track of man, and daily lays his tribute on the unfortunate inhabitants! How the narrator enjoys the intense interest of his verdant listener, forgetting that many persons at home are apt to accept as gospel truth each and every statement of the traveller, especially if he be individually known to them, or a distinguished man of letters; and that, by so stretching the truth as to afford himself and his friends amusement at the expense of an unsuspecting one, he is in reality damaging the future chances of emigration to his own island home. However, I cannot do better than quote an authoritative and responsible refutation of this second slander against St. Lucia, from the *Barbados and West India Directory*, which reads as follows:—

"In the way of reptiles, there are several species of snakes, one variety of which is venomous, and its bite will cause death in a few hours, unless immediately attended to. Antidotes, however, are well known to all the peasantry, which is the class most exposed to the

danger; added to which, *the snake will not only never attack, but will always try to get away from man.* It will turn only if trodden on, or itself attacked, or suddenly disturbed. The Government doctors have also become experienced in the treatment of snake-bite, and if not brought in too late, such cases are among the most successful of the hospital practice. When it is considered that the bulk of the population is rural, that two-thirds of the area of the country is a dense forest, about which the negroes are always wandering in search of natural products or hunting game, and that the yearly deaths from snake-bites average only *one in six thousand* of the population, it will be seen that the exaggerated stories about the number of, and danger from, snakes in St. Lucia have no foundation."

This is a plain unvarnished statement, from which we learn that the annual deaths from snake-bites are under seven in the forty-one thousand population of the whole island. What do we hear about deaths from similar causes in India and other colonies? Do such deter thousands from proceeding thither. Then why has the presence of a few venomous snakes in St. Lucia been allowed to prejudice her fair share of emigration? Simply from this reason: that casual visitors being obliged to say something unpleasant about a country where all else is so good, for fear that in giving praise without blame their veracity may be doubted at home, have introduced into their published books of travel foolish and unauthenticated accounts of the perils to be encountered from deadly serpents!

Let the timid derive further consolation, if need be, from the fact that the harmless *coïbo*, a long steel-blue snake, is especially partial to the flesh of the *fer-de-lance*, making a dinner off him on every suitable occasion; and, further, the imported Indian mongoose makes short work of the same, swallowing fangs, venom-glands, and all.

Castries is the principal town of St. Lucia, and is at present too small to worthily represent the capital of so beautiful an island; however, such can and is being remedied; while the little town of Souffrière, which lies on the west coast, was baulked of its chance of rising to importance, through the abandonment of Messrs. Bennett and Wood's sulphur works, which were in its immediate neighbourhood, and were closed on account of a heavy duty being imposed on exported sulphur; the misguided inhabitants perceiving imaginary dearth of labour for their sugar plantations in the future. However, they have now learned, by a dearly bought experience, that every fresh expenditure of capital, in no matter what direction, cannot fail, directly or indirectly, to benefit their colony.

As stated previously, this is a very central island, and as such conveniently situated for commercial enterprise, and, with its extraordinary natural resources, should tempt many a thrifty emigrant to embark his capital in some such industry as will presently be alluded to. It is richly wooded, so that the timber trade should prosper well; hard woods for furniture and cabinet purposes abounding; while resinous trees, and the fibrous bark of many a well-known commercially valuable species, only require scientific knowledge and practical experience to make them yield their several valuable properties. The valleys are all richly fertile, and the soil, always well watered, is fitted to raise anything that will grow in the tropics. Virgin land, suitable for growing cacao, coffee, spices, fibrous plants, fruit, etc., can be bought in any quantity at £1 per acre, payable by annual instalments of five shillings. At present only about one-fifth of the whole island is under cultivation, two-thirds being still in virgin forest.

In fact, new industries may be opened out here, as well as in most of the other islands. Larger crops of maize might be profitably grown, for it is not even produced in sufficient quantity for local needs, seeing that this corn is largely imported from America: truly, an unhappy illustration of carrying coals to Newcastle! It would seem almost superfluous to urge the production of such common vegetables as peas, beans, etc., which every labourer at home takes care to have abundance of in his allotment garden; but somehow the St. Lucians prefer paying an import duty on these garden crops, instead of each growing sufficient for family requirements. Perhaps they will excuse my mentioning the fact that maize produces a crop in four months after planting; plantains and bananas, in nine months; while peas, beans, roots, and other vegetables yield a profusion in an incredibly short time. What an excellent opportunity for a few market gardeners to earn a comfortable competency!

But there is a new and special industry, that St. Lucia is better fitted to successfully carry through than any other of these West Indian colonies, and it could not fail to become a most profitable undertaking. I refer to the erection of a manufactory for the production of coco-nut cake for cattle foods. Here we have, in the West Indies generally, the "prince of palms" growing luxuriantly, and producing, where carefully attended, an extremely rich harvest of nuts, which as a rule, like every other commodity, are grown merely to be shipped away to other lands, where the people appreciate their innumerable good qualities, and which is simply sending more than money's worth out of the country. Therefore, in view of the needs of the garrison of one thousand men, the crews of the Royal Navy, and those of the three thousand steamers that yearly visit and mostly coal at Castries, to say nothing of

local needs for good prime beef, such an opportunity is opened to St. Lucia for improving her native breeds of cattle, and bringing them to that proper state of perfection, by a judicious feeding on coco-nut cake, supplemented with sufficient green food, which if neglected will be taken up elsewhere, and St. Lucia will for ever have lost her opportunity of being the *principal cattle-food station of the West Indies*. As I have before remarked in dealing with Tobago, it is absolutely necessary, for the future prosperity of these islands, that mere cultivation of the raw material plain and simple should not be the solitary aim of the colonists, but that manufactories for the reducing of the same to such ingredients as are really required for local needs must supplement the successful growth of their many industries (*vide* pages 145, 152, and 165).

Let me here recapitulate: Climate and soil alike most genial; land to be had almost for the asking; population most favourably disposed towards new-comers, and all anxious to participate in any fresh exertions to make St. Lucia popular; a grand opening for manufacturers of coco-nut cake to erect a factory on the spot, and buy up the nuts from the islands in all directions; and, lastly, for stock-raisers to hurry thither, and, with capital backed up by former experience, to buy up and improve the native breeds by judicious crossing with British stock; while planters may turn their attention more to suitable pasture-lands of Para and Guinea grass, so that what with rich pastures and coco-nut cake, the St. Lucian herds may become celebrated far and wide. Beef and pork at present sell at from sixpence to eightpence a pound, and mutton, such as it is, at eightpence; while potatoes and their equivalents cost about twopence. Fish of excellent quality is found in great abundance

and variety off the coast, and the rivers teem with fresh-water kinds. Crabs, crawfish, lobsters, and turtle are also plentiful. The "new-chum" would soon become familiar with, and fully appreciate, the delicate flesh of the iguana, a large variety of green lizard, which is suggestive of a combination of chicken and turtle; while the agouti, a sharp little rodent, not unlike a hedgehog in appearance, is most excellent eating, having a flavour similar to that of jugged hare.

It only remains for me now, in dealing with this truly beautiful island, to state that there is absolute security from violence to the person, and little, if any, danger to property, owing to the absence of a criminal class; and to make mention of its highly medicinal sulphur springs. The latter are most efficacious in cases of rheumatism, ulcers, skin diseases, and in bronchial affections. It may not be generally known that, when a French possession, Louis XVI. caused most elaborate baths to be erected here for the use of the troops in the Windward Islands; and although these are at present fallen to decay, the ruined structures are still resorted to by those desirous of obtaining relief from suffering. Here then, again, is a future source of considerable profit to any enterprising company who, by putting these baths into repair and advertising their remedial qualities, should induce visitors to pass the winter at St. Lucia. The quality of these waters is precisely similar to those sought out by so many thousands at Aix-les-Bains and other Continental spas, and moreover, possess the superior advantage of preserving their efficacy all the year round. Another spring of slightly effervescent water, impregnated with iron, and of perfect limpidity, will hold its own with the most highly flavoured Harrogate or other olfactory waters imported from Europe.

DOMINICA.

Passing Martinique, a French possession, abundant in the growth of sugar-cane, and withal a prosperous settlement, where the shipwright may obtain employment, we cast anchor at Dominica, an island thickly covered with gigantic trees and ferns, which was discovered by Columbus on Sunday, November 3, 1493; hence its name. On approaching its shores, the thickness and richness of its luxuriant vegetation are strikingly prominent, even to the eye accustomed to tropical foliage. Its lofty irregular mountains, the highest in the Antilles—Morne Diablotin being 5314 feet above the level of the sea—rise abruptly from the ocean, but, unlike many rugged peaks, they are completely mantled with virgin forest up to their very summits; while as the vessel passes along its coasts, the traveller is delighted with a panorama of smiling valleys, deep ravines with overhanging cliffs, and lofty wooded mountains, forming a succession of views of exceeding beauty and magnificence. When riding at anchor in its magnificent roadstead, the visitor cannot fail to notice the intensity of the blue colour of the water, which will certainly tempt him to row ashore.

With regard to its past history, although nominally an English possession in 1627, all attempts to bring into subjection its yellow Caribs proved utterly abortive; so that by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, it was mutually stipulated between the French and ourselves that Dominica should remain neutral, and be left in possession of the aborigines. Many French planters meanwhile settled here, who in 1763, when the English were confirmed in their previous conquest of the island by the ninth article of the treaty of peace signed at Paris, were generously secured in their possessions, under

certain easy conditions. In 1771, after an obstinate resistance, the French became masters of the island, and its trade falling off, great distress resulted; but in 1783 the island was again restored to the English. A final attempt was made on the part of the French to regain possession in 1805, and so vividly has the impression of this invasion remained in the history of Dominica, that this remarkable epoch, which goes by the name of *La Grange* (from the name of the French general), is used in the island for marking the time of events. We are told that the regulars and militia fought gallantly, but that the capital, Roseau, being accidentally set on fire, they were compelled to capitulate, paying the enemy £12,000 to quit. The Governor, Sir G. Prevost, and the troops then entrenched themselves at the superior position of Prince Rupert's, from which, like their native "calling crabs," which "brandish their long single arms, with frightful menaces, as of infuriated Nelsons," they dared the French "to come on;" but the invaders, content with their tribute-money, departed; and from that period to the present time the island has not known war.

Roseau, the chief town, has a population of about 4500; while Portsmouth, on the north coast, is appropriately named, being a rising port, and destined—when the island is under better cultivation, and its large accumulations of sulphur are properly worked—to be the outport of its industries. Among the natural phenomena of this luxuriant island must be mentioned its Boiling Lake, some 2425 feet above the sea; and in a deep valley at its southern extremity, hot-water springs issue from crevices near its sulphurous openings, in the Roseau valley boiling up in the bed of the river.

Similarly with Tobago, and in a great measure with St. Vincent, this neglected island of Dominica presents to

the energetic and thrifty small capitalist a chance of acquiring land for next to nothing; and to men like those who prefer to cut their own way through Australian "bush," and the "scrub" of other far-away countries, acting as pioneers for future larger capitalists, I cannot too strongly urge the claims of islands like these, which are, so to speak, "on their beam-ends." It has been suggested in certain quarters that a company, with a capital of £20,000, could acquire large territory in Dominica, and so work the land to a profit. I am not a believer in heroic measures of any such magnitude, being thoroughly convinced that a yeoman proprietary alone is fitted to properly work and develop the resources of such islands. Leave companies to those of the Antilles that have some large staple industry to attract them, and where costly machinery necessitates an ample outlay of capital; but if we wish these almost primeval lands to be thoroughly developed with regard to *all* their resources, a yeoman proprietorship of persons engaged in varied agricultural pursuits is, to my mind, the only means to such an end.

Mr. D. Morris thus refers to this colony: "The backward condition of Dominica, which is the third in size of the British West India islands, is simply deplorable. The greater part is still unopened forest. It possesses such natural resources of soil and climate, that nothing is wanting, but the right application of capital and energy, to make it one of the most prosperous of our tropical dependencies. Its finances are said to be so low at present as not to admit even of the simplest attempt being made to develop local industries." What a chance, then, for a comparatively poor man over here to become a prosperous and anon wealthy planter at Dominica! What are the nearly bankrupt tenant-farmers of the British Isles about, when a fortnight from their shores

lies such an island, the ground of which can be acquired for a few shillings per acre, and is capable of yielding a fortune?

Again, in writing of Dominica, Mr. C. S. Salmon states: "There is a magnificent field for enterprise in this island, if only the right men could be got to go there—men who would take a common sense view of the position, and disregard all routine and precedents. For the cultivation of oranges, coffee, limes, and many descriptions of fruit, this island is as good as any place. The black women do as much labour as men, but they get fifty per cent. less wages; sometimes only half as much."

But Mr. J. A. Froude has so thoroughly espoused the cause of this fair but neglected colony, that I cannot do better than direct the intending settler there to chapter xi. of his recent book, "The English in the West Indies," from which I quote the following account of what the enterprise of a single educated gentleman has succeeded in accomplishing in the brief space of four years:—

"I had an opportunity of seeing what can really be done in Dominica, by an English gentleman who has gone the right way to work there. Dr. Nicholls came out a few years ago to Roseau as a medical officer. He was described to me as a man not only of high professional skill, but with considerable scientific attainments. Either by purchase or legacy (I think the latter), he had become possessed of a small estate on a hillside a mile or two from town. He had built a house upon it. He was cultivating the soil on scientific principles, and had politely sent me an invitation to call on him and see what he was about. I do not know the exact extent of the property which was under cultivation; perhaps it was twenty-three or thirty acres. The chief part of it was planted with lime-trees, the limes which I saw growing being as large

as moderate-sized lemons ; most of the rest was covered with Liberian coffee, which does not object to the moist climate, and was growing with profuse luxuriance. Each tree, each plant had been personally attended to, pruned when it needed pruning, supported by bamboos if it was overgrowing its strength, while the ground about the house was consecrated to botanical experiments, and specimens were to be seen there of every tropical flower, shrub, or tree, which was either remarkable for its beauty, or valuable for its chemical properties. His limes and coffee went principally to New York, where they had won a reputation, and were in special demand ; but ingenuity tries other tracks besides the beaten one. Dr. Nicholls had a manufactory of citric acid, which had been found equally excellent in Europe. Everything which he produced was turning to gold, except donkeys, seven or eight of which were feeding under his windows, and which multiplied so fast that he could not tell what to do with them.

“ Industries so various and so active required labour, and I saw many of the blacks at work on the grounds. In apparent contradiction to the general West Indian experience, he told me that he had never found a difficulty about it. He paid them fair wages, and paid them regularly, without the overseer's fines and drawbacks. He knew one from the other personally, could call each by his name, remembered where he came from, where he lived, and how, and could joke with him about his wife or mistress. They in consequence clung to him with an innocent affection, stayed with him all the week without asking for holidays, and worked with interest and goodwill. Four years only had elapsed since Dr. Nicholls commenced his undertakings, and he already saw his way to clearing £1000 a year on that one small patch of acres.”

Is it not strange that such a case should be the exception, and not the rule; that the most pleasurable existence man could participate in, should have to be proclaimed from the housetops as a marvel and something partaking of the miraculous? One would reasonably have supposed that a land, metaphorically speaking, "flowing with milk and honey," would be crowded with men devoting their lives and energies to similar pursuits; and yet, incredible as it may seem, it is actually necessary to hold up for example's sake a planter who, however deserving of praise, would be the last to deny that he is simply doing what every reasonable man should have an interest in doing in such a country, and that, by simple practical energy, he is building up a good future for himself and family.

Sugar, cacao, Liberian coffee as well as other, cotton, and tobacco, with fruit, are the chief productions of Dominica. Limes and annatto dye must also be added. Of timber, the best hard woods are the combaril, satinwood, mastic, bully-tree, etc., and these are chiefly found on the leeward side of the island, where the heat is greatest and less rain falls, though valuable trees are to be found all over Dominica. Of both game and fish there is abundance.

Briefly, then, Dominica is specially adapted to the requirements of the small capitalist, who will find that provision grounds on his partially cleared forest-land will pay him handsomely, while his cacao, coffee, or what not is coming to perfection.

Like so many of our West Indian possessions, Dominica in her streams of hot water and mineral springs possesses invaluable remedial agencies for the afflicted, but which, owing to lack of enterprise and advertisement, are almost unknown and unappreciated; they should, nevertheless, prove an additional attraction to the emigrant, as furnish-

ing him with a restorative that would speedily counteract the effects of any illness he might be called upon to suffer here, as elsewhere, upon this earth.

MONTSERRAT.

Leaving Dominica, we next touch at the French island of Guadaloupe, prosperous, and with exports and imports amounting to one and a half-million sterling; confining ourselves to the reflection that had the same fiscal laws paralyzed their chief industry, viz. their bounty-fed sugar, as have ours at home crippled the profitable production of the cane in West Indian British possessions, their prosperity would have been but short-lived. However, good days are yet ahead, and "a fair field and no favour" will prove eventually how reasonable has been this oft-repeated cry from our own colonies. The traveller must bear in mind that if he desires to land in either Martinique or Guadaloupe, he must come armed with the necessary passports.

And now we head towards that delightful island, Montserrat, *the home of the lime-juice*, so important a commodity throughout the whole world. Here we have a veritable example of the undoubted success of a new venture, and other places similarly situated with regard to soil and climate might well follow the lead of the Messrs. Sturge. As a matter of fact, about 1000 acres, containing some 170,000 lime-trees, are now owned by the Montserrat Lime Company alone, and the cultivation is steadily extending. It must be borne in mind that the lime is vastly superior to the lemon, and that its health-giving qualities are fully recognized in the tropics. Of course, over here, we are principally acquainted with its concentrated essence, and there are few indeed who have

not experienced the refreshing coolness of a draught of lime-juice and water, which to the sailor is an absolute necessity as a preventive of disease; but we are not yet



EXCELLING ESSENCE FROM LIMES.

accustomed to order limes instead of lemons from our family grocers. I am, however, convinced that many would prefer the full flavour of the former, to the oftentimes poor insipidness of the other. Each has its uses,

and if the lime should be bought for its superior juice, as an article from which delicious health-giving tonics can be made, the lemon could still hold its own for culinary and other purposes.

Regarding the health-giving properties of lime-juice there can be no two opinions, for even in times of comparatively rude health an occasional draught of its essence is beneficial as a precaution against contagion; while during periods of depression and languor it is wonderful the healthy tone it imparts to the digestive organs, causing sickness to disappear, and appetite to regain its sway. One can almost fancy that the cheery account given by Kingsley of the wonderful bounding health of the coloured men and women he encountered during his voyage down these islands, as compared with the scrofulous visages to be met with in our great towns, was prompted by his proximity to Montserrat and its groves of lime-trees; and, indeed, what miraculous cures would be effected amongst our poor weak creatures (slaves to their own baneful habits, as well as in the ceaseless drudgery they have daily to perform), could they but be persuaded to drink lime-juice instead of gin. "Meanwhile," writes the above, "it was a comfort to me, fresh from the cities of the old world, and the short and stunted figures, the mesquin and scrofulous visages, which crowd our alleys and back wynds, to see everywhere health, strength, and goodly stature, especially among women. Nowhere in the West Indies are to be seen those haggard down-trodden mothers, grown old before their time, too common in England, and commoner still in France. Health, 'rude' in every sense of the word, is the mark of the negro woman, and of the negro man likewise. Their faces shine with fatness; they seem to enjoy—they do enjoy—the mere act of living, like the lizard on the

Wall. It may be said—it must be said—that if they be human beings (as they are), they are meant for something more than mere enjoyment of life. Well and good; but are they not meant for enjoyment likewise?

“Let us take the beam out of our own eye, before we take the mote out of theirs; let us, before we complain of them for being too healthy and comfortable, remember that we have at home here tens of thousands of paupers, rogues, what not, who are not a whit more civilized, intellectual, virtuous, or spiritual than the negro, and are, meanwhile, neither healthy nor comfortable. The negro may have the *corpus sanum* without the *mens sana*. But what of those whose souls and bodies are alike unsound?”

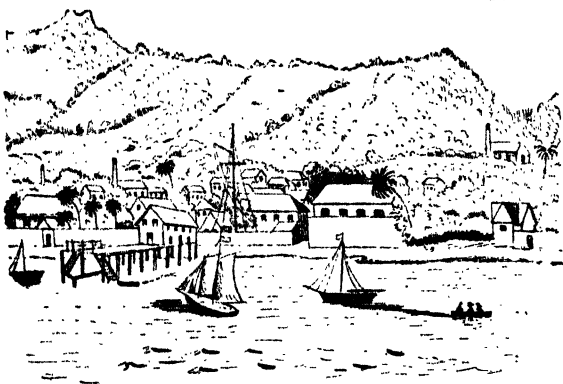
Montserrat was so named by Columbus in 1493, after a famous mountain in Spain, where is situated the monastery in which Ignatius Loyola conceived the project of founding the Society of Jesus. This island, which is but twelve miles in length and eight miles in the broadest part, is considered one of the loveliest, and many assert the healthiest, of all the lovely and healthful Antilles; and as its roads are zigzag, up hill and down ravine, a journey from its capital, Plymouth, inland, causes its superficial area to appear much larger than it really is. However, there is, in its thirty-two square miles, plenty of land still uncultivated. I believe about half remains untouched.

The crop of sugar yields, in a very good year, about 2500 hogsheads, and many of the sugar-works are furnished with steam-engines, though there are still some fine properties which rely on the windmill; there are besides a few cattle-mills, and two or three worked by water-power.

Its other products include cotton, tamarinds, pine-apples, and, as previously stated, lime-juice.]

With regard to its history, like most others, the game of "French and English" was played on its territory from 1632 to 1874, since which time it has continued a British colony.

Should the whole available acreage be covered with lime, coffee, cacao, sugar, and provision grounds, with what other crops the inhabitants found necessary for local purposes, so as to bring their duty on imports to the very lowest scale conducive with economy, this health-giving island would be a model for others to copy; and it



PLYMOUTH, MONTSERRAT.

has hitherto been going the right way to succeed. The mere fact of profitable occupation having been found in the extensive cultivation of lime groves, proves that an energetic and thoughtful brain has only to make proper use of its ingenuity, which, as Mr. Froude remarks, "tries other tracks besides the beaten one," in order to carve out from "Fortune's bounteous hand," not one, but many roads to success.

Won't you come then, those who are "weary and heavy-laden," and withal sinking into a premature grave,

to this health-giving "island of limes," where, for a few pounds saved weekly from earnings hitherto spent in dissolution and drink, you may own a plot of land, besides working in shady groves for fair wages, and so begin a new life surrounded by God's most generous gifts of beautiful fruits and vegetables, till by your own industry you shall have raised yourselves and families to positions of respectability, and be able to influence others to follow,



GATHERING LIMES.

who were dying by inches at home? How important it is that a British colony such as this should be widely known amongst our people at home; yet I doubt if one in a thousand has even heard the name, though they may be acquainted with the wonderful panacea against ill-health which is found in its principal staple production.

It is pure rank folly for any person to assert that Europeans are unable to work in these West Indian islands; any European can work in the shade, and where

persons of little means have been induced to emigrate thither, they have, if steady, invariably turned out successful colonists. And whilst we are on this topic, and resting 'neath the cool shade of the lime, cacao, or other groves, let us learn something of the surroundings of West Indian villages in general, and the style of huts we shall occupy. Read, then, the following, written many years ago, by Michael Scott, in that inimitable work, "Tom Cringle's Log," and compare the lot of our toiling and moiling brothers and sisters in the slums of our great cities, with that of the slaves depicted therein:—

"The negro villages are usually situated in the most picturesque spots, and I determined to visit this one which lay on a sunny bank full in view from my window. At a distance it had the appearance of one entire orchard of fruit-trees, where were mingled together the pyramidal orange, in fruit and in flower, the former in all its stages from green to dropping ripe,—the citron, lemon, and lime trees, the stately, glossy-leaved star-apple, the golden shaddock and grape-fruit, with their slender branches bending under their ponderous yellow fruit,—the cashew, with its apple like those of the cities of the plain, fair to look at, but acrid to the taste, to which the far-famed nut is appended like a bud,—the avocado, with its Brobdingnag pear, as large as a purser's lantern,—the bread-fruit, with a leaf, one of which would have covered Adam like a bishop's apron, and a fruit for all the world in size and shape like a blackamoor's head; while for underwood you had the green, fresh, dew-spangled plantain, round which in the hottest days there is always a halo of coolness,—the coco root, the yam and granadillo, with their long vines twining up the neighbouring trees and shrubs like hop tendrils,—and peas and beans, in all

their endless variety of blossom and of odour, from the Lima bean, with a stalk as thick as my arm, to the mouse pea, three inches high,—the pine-apple, literally growing in, and constituting, with its prickly leaves, part of the hedgerows,—the custard-apple, like russet bags of cold pudding,—the cocoa and coffee bushes, and the devil knows what all, that is delightful in nature besides; while aloft, the tall graceful cocoa-nut, the majestic palm, and the gigantic wild cotton-tree, shot up here and there like minarets far above the rest, high into the blue heavens.

“The huts were substantially thatched with palm leaves, and the walls woven with a basket-work of twigs, plastered over with clay, and whitewashed; the floors were of baked clay, dry and comfortable. They all consisted of a hall and a sleeping-room off each side of it: in many of the former I noticed mahogany sideboards and chairs, and glass decanters, while a whole lot of African drums and flutes, and sometimes a good gun, hung from the rafters; and it would have gladdened an Irishman’s heart to have seen the adjoining piggeries.

“While I was pursuing my ramble, a large conch-shell was blown at the overseer’s house, and the different gangs turned in to dinner; they came along, dancing and shouting, and playing tricks on each other in the little paths, in all the happy anticipation of a good dinner, and an hour and a half to eat it in; the men well clad in Osnaburg frocks and trousers, and the women in baize petticoats and Osnaburg shifts, with a neat printed calico short gown over all.

“‘And these are slaves,’ thought I, ‘*and this is West Indian bondage!*’”

What think you of the picture? Have you, men and women of our large towns, a good dinner and an hour and

a half to eat it in ? and are you clad in Osnaburg frocks, trousers, shifts, baize petticoats, and neat printed calico gowns ? I trow not !

Listen to the following from Mrs. Hemans' "Better Land" :—

" I hear thee speak of a better land,
Thou callest its children a happy band.
Mother ! oh, where is that radiant shore ?
Shall we not seek it, and weep no more ?
Is it where the flower of the orange blows,
And the fire-flies dance through the myrtle boughs ?

" Is it where the feathery palm-trees rise,
And the date grows ripe under sunny skies ?
Or 'midst the green islands of glittering seas,
Where fragrant forests perfume the breeze,
And strange wild birds, on their starry wings,
Bear the rich hues of all glorious things ?

* * * * *

" And the pearl gleams forth from the coral strand ?—
Is it there, sweet mother, that better land ?"

Would not such as I have described be a better land to many of you, could you but get *there* ? Well, it is in your own hands. Save your earnings to the last farthing, and emigrate thither ; and, take my word for it, you will never regret the change !

In this island of Montserrat, the first lime-tree orchards were planted in 1852, by Mr. Burke, an enterprising planter then living in the island ; but, like many another pioneer, he found the speculation at first by no means profitable, as this is an enterprise that involves a large outlay of capital, which is for a number of years unproductive, and even then only remunerative on a large scale ; although the low rate of wages, and extent of uncultivated land in a salubrious climate, render this island particularly suitable for the purpose.

The lime-tree itself is a member of the orange family, which grows wild in many tropical countries, but does not flourish even so far north as the Azores. It is a thorny, bushy, evergreen tree, with handsome, dark-green leaves, and these latter are so fragrant that they are universally used in the West Indies to perfume the water in the finger-glasses at dessert. The small white flowers resemble orange blossom, and the scent is equally delicious.

Limes flourish best in light soil near the sea, and are generally planted fifteen feet apart, coming into full



BRINGING HOME THE FRUIT.

bearing about seven years from the planting of the seed ; the trees require regular pruning, and to be freed from the mistletoe and other mischievous parasites. No more beautiful sight can be imagined than these groves, when the trees are laden with their bright fruit, and the air is pervaded by the exquisite fragrance of the blossom.

After the fruit is gathered, and brought home in bullock waggons, it is sliced by water-power at the Olveston Lime-juice Works, Montserrat, and the juice expressed ;

that from the choice fruit is promptly headed up in casks, so that it may not be exposed to the air, while that of the inferior fruit is boiled down for the use of citric-acid makers. In Jamaica, Tahiti, and elsewhere, where the tree grows wild, the negroes go about the country squeezing the fruit they find under the scattered trees, into a pail, with a wooden kitchen lemon-squeezer. This stuff is bought by the merchants for a few pence a gallon, and as lime-juice decomposes very rapidly when



OLVESTON LIME-JUICE WORKS, MONTSERRAT.

exposed to the atmosphere in a tropical climate, and acquires a disagreeable taste in a few hours unless the air be excluded from it, it may easily be imagined that the juice so obtained does not please the English consumer; even if it has not, as is sometimes the case, been adulterated with salt water by the negroes, in order to increase its bulk; or, worse still, mixed with sulphuric and other mineral acids. In fact, until the introduction of the Montserrat juice, lime-juice was not popular as a beverage on account of the mawkish taste which it so often

carried with it, and from the fact of its being generally mouldy.

In Montserrat alone is the lime systematically cultivated on a large scale for the purpose of supplying juice as a beverage to the English market. This juice is brought over in large casks to this country, when, after being allowed to settle, it is clarified and bottled by the sole consignees, Messrs. Evans, Sons, & Co., of 56, Hanover Street, Liverpool; and from the care with which it is prepared, racked, and bottled, it retains its flavour, citridity, and brightness for an indefinite period.

ANTIGUA.

We now approach one of the most remarkable islands on the face of the globe, which has puzzled the geologist respecting its manifold formation, consisting as it does of various marine and fresh-water strata prominent among its commonly calcareous land. It is a very pleasure-ground to the collector of fossils, the different strata exhibiting in their turn shells and coral, and agatized shells and woods, the latter of a far-back creation unknown to botanists, which are exceedingly beautiful when polished; while in addition are several strata of marly clay and dark grit, the former containing an excellent green building stone, suggestive of copper.

Antigua is the most important of the Leeward group, with an area larger than that of the Isle of Wight, its population, which is just now stationary, being estimated at over thirty-five thousand. In shape it is oval, and withal flat, in comparison to the majority of the Lesser Antilles; for it carries no central peak, being composed of a wilderness of ragged uplands, with elevations of from eight hundred to a thousand feet.

As the steamer enters St. John's Harbour, where the largest men-of-war may safely lie at anchor, though its entrance is difficult and at times dangerous, on account of hidden rocks and a sandy bar, the spectator is at once struck with the exceedingly pleasing appearance of the capital town, with its regular and well-laid-out streets, and signs of commercial activity; and all praise is due to the indefatigable Antiguans, who certainly deserve "the palm of merit" for their industry and perseverance in the face of such difficulties as have never been experienced by any of the other islands. When I state that they have absolutely no rivers, and but few springs, and that up to a few years ago they were dependent upon the rain-water collected in tanks and ponds for their own use, and for purposes of irrigation, and yet that every acre available for cultivation is or has been farmed, and with former very great success, my readers will understand under what apparently insurmountable difficulties the Antiguans have both toiled and succeeded. Of course, bad times with their cane crops—for Antigua, like Barbados, is, from its flatness, a suitable garden for the cultivation of sugar—caused many years of depression, during which the fine estate of many an old descendant of the Codringtons, Willoughbys, and Combermeres has been allowed to "ruinate;" but the decrease of the population having been stayed, the inhabitants have apparently entered on a prosperous career, and intend making their island a living example of what pluck and energy combined can effect. The intending settler would do well to turn his attention thither, for here he would get a thorough insight into West Indian cultivation, and, more important still, learn habits of industry and thrift.

There is something very attractive also in the fact of its being an English-speaking colony, which brings us

again to consider it side by side with Barbados; and there is no doubt that its long attachment, since 1666, to the British Crown, has inspired its inhabitants with a similar loyal devotion to that displayed by the Barbadian. Indeed, it is an old boast of the Antiguan, that were all our other West Indian colonies to be taken by the invader, their rugged, rocky fastnesses would hold out impregnable until time had allowed of Great Britain's recovering her lost possessions.

Antigua was discovered by Columbus in 1493, who named it after a church in Seville, called Santa Maria la Antigua. It was first inhabited by the English in 1632, and, after an exceedingly brief occupation by the French, was declared a British possession by the Treaty of Breda in 1666; and very naturally its steady allegiance to ourselves, amid all the embroiling events connected with the repeated capture and loss of the adjacent islands, has contributed to that continued success it has so richly merited.

St. John, the chief town, has a population of ten thousand, and, as stated above, is remarkably neat and well managed, and boasts a number of important public and other institutions, including a cathedral; public library, containing some seven thousand volumes; a female orphan asylum; the Holberton Institution, with hospital, union, and lunatic asylum; and a well-known charitable institution, called "The Mico," from its beneficent founder, Lady Mico, who in 1814 caused this building to be erected for the purpose of receiving the captives liberated from the Algerine pirates. The scheme of the charity was, however, changed, in consequence of the nest of pirates having been broken up by Lord Exmouth at the bombardment of Algiers, and the Mico Institution now receives and educates the children of poor blacks in

Antigua and neighbouring colonies. To this list must be added an excellent grammar-school for the higher education of boys.

The other towns are Parham, Falmouth, and English Harbour—the harbour being simply a group of extinct craters, now handed over from the dominion of fire to that of water—all of which have seen better days. The two latter are but a mile from each other, and the famous dockyard for which Antigua is noted is in their immediate neighbourhood; as also is the former station, called “The Ridges,” for the troops when garrisoned at the island.

The comparative insignificance into which these at one time flourishing settlements have subsided is owing to the withdrawal of the troops from the colony; and although much may be said concerning expense, inability to spare soldiers from home, and their being merely required to perform police duty, still it cannot be gainsaid that, especially where the great majority of the populace are of an alien and coloured descent, “nothing tends to promote loyalty more than the presence of the ever-familiar red coat, and the stirring sound of drum and fife.” Soldiers spend their money freely, and, possessing little pride, associate familiarly with the populace. Again, where there are troops, there are barracks and War Department lands, and the maintenance, repair, and improvement of these, carried out by the Royal Engineer Department on one uniform and English style of working, furnish employment to a considerable number of local artisans, who are thus kept from technical stagnation.

I have not the slightest hesitation in asserting that the withdrawal of troops from the several islands has contributed in a large measure to their almost universal depression and stagnancy; and although Antigua has

struggled with much success against this downward tendency, she would gladly welcome a garrison, however small, knowing full well that trade would be stimulated and the colony given new life by their coming. In fact, we have only to glance at St. Lucia to understand how the promise of a thousand troops has instilled fresh energy and determination among its inhabitants. Antigua certainly deserves better things; it is the head-quarters of the government of the Leeward group, and should be treated accordingly; though every one of the islands of sufficient importance should have its quota of soldiers. I care not whether they are white, black, or Indian, though the former would be preferable; and I quite agree with Mr. F. H. Wilcher, who, in 1885, proposed that these colonies should be garrisoned with Royal Marines. He wrote, referring to this branch of the service—

“They are nearly always the first actors in our colonial wars, and their training gives them such an elasticity of manner and of discipline that, whether in parties of twenty or parties of a hundred, on shore or at sea, they maintain their efficiency when the best-drilled troops would lose their cohesion and become utterly demoralized. The keen jealousy existing between them and the blue-jackets has something to do with the maintenance of *esprit de corps*. What could be simpler than to have a division of marines, with its head-quarters in the West Indies, with a company of men in each of the smaller islands, and in the larger, in proportion? Excellent barrack accommodation exists, which has been temporarily abandoned to the local governments by the War Department, but which could at once be reclaimed. Constant changes from sea to land, and from land to sea, could be made by the fleet; and this would much mitigate the expense and necessity for invaliding, as well as maintain

the men's efficiency. The empire then would be able to strike a blow at once in a case of emergency, without the expense, trouble, and delay of a large military expedition. *En passant*, I may remark that this is the system pursued by the French in their West Indian possessions."

This is good sound common sense, and I call the attention of the British Government to it, for they have always professed a willingness to do all in their power to bring back prosperity to our West Indian colonies. Make, then, an experiment with Antigua, the seat of government, an important island, that can no longer be scouted from a deficiency of fresh water, for with their splendid reservoir, with its capacity of 500,000 gallons, the Antiguanians have now a certain and abundant supply, while the very absence of moisture, preventing the presence of malarial swamps, is no doubt the cause of the known salubrity of this island. So with a small garrison of Royal Marines and the advent of a few new settlers, Antigua would receive a welcome addition to her numbers, and feel that her long loyalty to the British Crown had not altogether been thrown away or forgotten.

Turning to the produce of Antigua, sugar and pine-apples are what it is best known for, though not neglectful of other commodities, such as vegetables, fruit, cotton, coffee, tobacco, etc., while its principal trees include the red and white cedar, mahogany, logwood, machineel, mangrove, and white-wood. Guinea grass is also extensively cultivated, together with an indigenous species, called the "cent-per-cent;" and these, with the tops of the sugar-canes, constitute the principal green food for cattle. I would refer Antiguanians to the remarks under "Ensilage" in the article entitled "Other Industries."

With regard to a new industry for Antigua, it would

appear that the cultivation of maize or Indian corn is most admirably adapted for the peculiar dryness of this district. Moreover, in a dry district there is no cereal so well adapted to yield regular crops as Guinea corn, and other more or less known species of sorghum. They afford a large supply of green food for cattle and horses, they bear cutting, and the grain is capable of being utilized in a variety of ways both for man and animals.

The *Kew Bulletin* of 1887 thus testifies to the wide field there is in this colony for various fibrous growths: "Antigua would afford a good field for the experimental cultivation of fibre plants, and such plants as *Furcræa gigantea* and *F. Cubensis*, native to the West Indies, which support a fibre industry on the abandoned sugar estates of Mauritius, should be largely planted. The sugar machinery might be adapted to the extraction of fibre, and the general level character of the surface would greatly contribute to reduce the cost of carting and all cultural operations."

Sisal and Mauritius hems, the former growing in profusion on the arid wastes of Zucatan, and the latter, as stated above, on the abandoned sugar estates of Mauritius, are both admirably suited for cultivation in Antigua, the plants caring nothing for drought, and requiring the most simple and economical treatment at the hands of the cultivator, while the universal increasing demand for both fibres in all countries, should be a still further inducement to Antiguan to set about their cultivation without delay.

In conclusion, I may add that sport on this island is excellent with regard to birds; cranes, pelicans, wild ducks, owls, hawks, kites, quails, and ground doves being plentiful, while plovers, sand-pipers, and other migratory birds visit the island for a short time during the autumn.

The coast is well supplied with turtle and different kinds of fish, which, with the exception of the so-called sprat, conger-eel, and horse-eyed cavally, are seldom possessed of any poisonous qualities. Further, the mangrove oyster, the "oyster that grows on trees," is also found on these coasts.

The islands of Barbuda and Redonda are dependencies of Antigua, and have a total area of sixty-two square miles. The former is flat and well cultivated, the feeding of stock being not neglected, while deer are very numerous, an old tenure compelling the lessee of the island to present a fat sheep to the Governor when on an official visit; but, owing to the scarcity of sheep and the abundance of deer, a fat buck was subsequently substituted for the former.

NEVIS (PART OF THE COLONY OF ST. KITTS, NEVIS, ANGUILLA, ETC.).

We now sight the conspicuous, single-peaked island of Nevis, consisting of a vast pyramidal mountain, rising 3200 feet above the level of the sea, an ever-resting canopy of clouds cutting off one-third of its summit from view. It is the crater-cone of a quiescent volcano, and its solid grandeur, scarcely relieved by the twin hills on either side, is most impressive, whether viewed far away at sea or when at anchor off its capital, Charlestown.

Our great naval hero, Nelson, during his early victories, having occasion to follow the French fleet into West Indian waters, was for some time resident in this island, having married the niece of the President, Mr. Herbert; and a little incident in connection with this courtship, as related by Southey, cannot fail to interest us, as we steam towards his former mountain home, or read the registry of the marriage in the old parish church. Referring to

the anxiety he experienced in courageously stamping out many abuses then prevalent in these colonies, Southey goes on to say, "He had, however, something to console him, for he was at this time wooing the niece of his friend the President, then in her eighteenth year, the widow of Dr. Nisbet, a physician. She had one child, a son, by name Josiah, who was three years old. One day, Mr. Herbert, who had hastened, half dressed, to receive Nelson, exclaimed, on returning to his dressing-room, 'Good God, if I did not find that great little man, of whom everybody is so afraid, playing in the next room, under the dining-table, with Mrs. Nisbet's child!' A few days afterwards, Mrs. Nisbet herself was first introduced to him, and thanked him for the partiality which he had shown her little boy. Her manners were mild and winning; and the captain, whose heart was easily susceptible of attachment, found no such imperious necessity for subduing his inclinations as had twice before withheld him from marrying. They were married on March 11, 1787: Prince William Henry (afterwards Duke of Clarence, then a lieutenant on board the *Boreas*), who had come out to the West Indies the preceding winter, being present by his own desire, to give away the bride."

The parish register reads as follows:—"1787, March 11. Horatio Nelson, Esquire, Captain of His Majesty's ship the *Boreas*, to Frances Herbert Nisbet, widow."

He nobly refused a fortune with his bride, and reconciled the President to his only daughter, whom he had threatened to disinherit. His after ill-fated infatuation for Lady Hamilton, and subsequent divorce from his faithful, loving wife, is the one indelible blot on his otherwise clear escutcheon.

Nevis was discovered in 1498, and was colonized by the English in 1628; but their peaceful settlement was

broken up by the Spaniards in the ensuing year, who appear to have held possession until 1782, when the island fell to the French, only, however, to be restored, together with St. Kitts, to the English in the year following.

This is almost a circular island, and the level ground, together with the mountain slopes, suitable for some kind of cultivation, is estimated at about sixteen thousand acres, the whole area comprising thirty-two thousand acres. From the deck of the steamer, this huge towering mass presents a singularly effective picture of hilly farming; and it must be borne in mind that the various plantations discernible owe whatever cultivation they enjoy literally to the very hand of man; for here at Nevis the stony nature of the soil prohibits the general use of the plough, so that man is compelled to employ the hoe alone, his labour in consequence being in a double sense uphill.

Yet the place is prosperous, and the people industrious, as they needs must be in the face of the difficult nature of the soil they are called upon to cultivate. Education also is by no means so backward as in many of the more seemingly enlightened colonies, and as a result the population is more orderly and free from crime. Wages are not high, consequently skilled labour has largely emigrated to Trinidad, Panama, and other places, where "hard work and good wages" is the motto. As a natural result, common to every island of the Lesser Antilles, the women are considerably in excess of the men. Still, as I have stated before, as they are capable of the same amount of daily labour, and, moreover, at a lower wage than the men, the labour market is not so seriously depreciated as it would be were the women unable to work on the plantations.

We are told that this little colony, some four miles by three, was the former happy dwelling-place, in the seventeenth century, of four thousand white people, who, from the baneful influence of slavery, and the consequent depression caused by the too sudden emancipation of the slaves, had dwindled, in 1854, to only 170. However, thanks to the energy and expenditure of Sir T. Graham Briggs, Bart., who has introduced improved machinery on the sugar estates, as well as new industries suited to the island, the negroes will soon find that they will not continue to form the principal bulk of its inhabitants.

Sugar is its staple production, and amounts to close upon seven thousand hogsheads yearly; but sheep and cattle are not neglected, and it would seem that sheep might be made a good deal more profitable than they are at present. I should be inclined to advocate a very large growth of cotton in this island, the seeds from which, after being properly crushed, form the well-known and highly nutritious cotton cake, which in the British Isles is so largely given to sheep.

Nevis, being of so distinctly mountainous a character, is admirably adapted for sheep-farming, its uncultivated districts affording good nibbling for sheep; while a judicious planting of Guinea and Para grass, and other green foods, backed up by a liberal feeding on cotton cake, could not fail to very materially improve both the quality and condition of the flock.

Do not import your cotton cake from America, as we are obliged to do; but, having the climate and soil suitable for its growth, cultivate it with care, and while you export whatever surplus cotton you may have, make use of the seeds for feeding large flocks of sheep, with which you can supply not only local needs, but those

other islands where good sheep are rare, and first-class mutton fetches a high price.

The sheep-farmer would find no lack of labour here; for, besides the negroes, there are coolies to the number of three or four hundred, and, if need be, he could have indentured coolies, as on the other estates.

Nevis boasts of medicinal springs, whose remedial qualities are similar to those of most of the other islands; while at Charlestown there is a bath-house for the use of visitors.

ST. KITTS.

This sainted abbreviation of Christopher was so named by its great discoverer Christopher Columbus, in 1493, in whose ever-vivid imagination the peculiar shape of the island, supporting on its uprising basis the central towering peak of Mount Misery, 4100 feet above the sea's level, suggested the statue of his own tutelary saint, the giant St. Christopher, bearing on his shoulders the infant Christ. Hence the threefold signification of its name.

St. Kitts and Barbados each claim the distinction of being the "mother colony" of the British West Indies, but the strictly accurate title, albeit only a difference of a year and a few months, belongs by right to the former; for whereas St. Kitts was colonized by fourteen English settlers in January, 1623, Barbados received her first colonists in the year following. But to Barbados alone belongs the proud distinction of having ever remained a British colony, and as such she enjoys a supreme position over all; Antigua being a good second.

Here again is a very garden of the sugar-cane, more picturesque than Barbados or Antigua, owing to its mountainous formation, and inhabited by wealthy planters.

In shape it is similar to a boot or leg, and lifts aloft a bare black peak; but from its sloping summit, a rich drapery of palm and plantain woods o'ertops the smiling fields below; and in every aspect is this island pleasant to look upon, whether as a superbly grand spectacle, or in respect to its pleasingly evident signs of prosperity that show out in each and every direction.

Whilst proceeding from Charlestown, the capital of Nevis, to Basseterre, that of St. Kitts, a distance of twelve miles, we notice the straits, only some two miles wide, and appropriately named the "Narrows," which divide the two islands, showing apparently that both were originally but one land. The south-western shore of St. Kitts is very beautiful, and the nearer we approach its capital and principal port, standing as it does on the seaboard of a spacious fertile valley, enclosed in an almost complete semicircular range of hills, the more frequent ejaculations of surprise, admiration, and delight escape our lips. It is indeed the one island of which the term "smiling" can be appropriately used; the beautiful gleam of green and burnished gold from its waving cane-fields, dotted here and there with arboreous "grey pillars, smooth and cylindrical as those of a Doric temple, each carrying a flat head of darkest green," presenting an enchanting picture of up hill and down dale cultivation that illustrates the cheery words of the Psalmist: "The little hills shall rejoice on every side; the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing;" for *corn* we must read *cane*.

The first settlers cultivated tobacco very successfully, and were joined by further recruits both from England and France, the two sets of colonists having a common enemy in the Caribs, with whom they waged repeated battles, finally expelling the natives from the island. In 1627,

they portioned off the colony between them, which accounts for the existence of French and English names in the quarters of the island respectively occupied by the two races. After being driven out by the Spaniards, who laid waste their settlements, they returned and lived on friendly terms till 1665, when, in consequence of quarrels, the French put the English settlers to rout. Thus the island remained a bone of contention between these opposing forces, the fortune of war favouring now this, now that nation, until, at the Peace of Utrecht, 1713, the English retained possession of the whole island, which rapidly increased in prosperity, though visited in 1722 by a frightful hurricane, which destroyed £500,000 worth of property. Yet again, the French attacked the little garrison of one thousand men in 1782, bringing no less a force than eight thousand troops and twenty-nine vessels of war to bear upon its gallant defenders, who were very naturally overpowered, though not until a noble resistance had been made against such overwhelming numbers. Finally, St. Kitts the following year was ceded again to the English, at the Treaty of Versailles, and has since remained a British colony.

With regard to the various objects of interest in this island, the visitor will be amply repaid by the tolerably easy ascent of Mount Misery, which is a mass of rock projecting from the lip of a large crater, the descent into which is a work of some toil, but well worth making. Volcanic action is by no means extinct, there being, up a short distance one side of the crater, hundreds of sulphurous jets too hot for the hand to be held over them. After heavy rains the bottom of the crater becomes a lake of several acres in extent, with a mean depth of five or six feet. Again, between this mountain and the sea is Brimstone Hill, formerly the seat of the garrison; it is

quite isolated, nearly conical, and about 750 feet in height, and looks as though it had been pitched out of the crater, whose bowl it would about fill up. It has upon it the remains of magnificent fortifications, no longer applied to any use; before the days of rifled artillery the fortress was looked upon as impregnable—the Gibraltar of the West Indies.

Near the churchyard at Old Road, on the Wingfield estate, is an object of the utmost interest to the antiquarian—a rock bearing Carib inscriptions; while if the geological zoologist fails to find the fossilized remains of the gigantic pigeon, formerly common to these parts, but now found only on the mainland of South America, he can at all events study *in propria personâ* the interesting small species of monkey which abounds in certain portions of the island, notably at their favourite rendezvous, Monkey Hill, in the south. The usual hospitals and workhouse are noticed; and although the old cathedral was destroyed with the greater part of the capital, Basseterre, in the disastrous fire of 1867, which moved the inhabitants to improve their water supply, there are no less than nine Church of England places of worship in the island; the Wesleyans and Roman Catholics having their separate establishments.

The intending resident in the sugar interest would do well to pay a visit to St. Kitts, before deciding upon his future dwelling-place. The climate is an acknowledged healthy one, and one can always get an invigorating atmosphere by climbing the mountains above referred to. All land at all worth cultivating has been under the plough, but in this cane-growing colony, as in others, estates in liquidation or Chancery can be purchased for a moderate sum, and, from having been once in good heart, can with patience and perseverance be made again to yield a rich

harvest. The "Caledonian Queen" sugar-cane, commonly called the "Jamaican" from its introduction there by Mr. Morris, is almost entirely displacing the old Otaheite cane, being better suited to stand dry weather, and although requiring, as every good plant should, an ample supply of manure, yields a crop much superior to that obtained from the old cane in former years.

The soil of St. Kitts is splendid, being of a rich loamy nature, intermingled with volcanic ashes; and with regard to the production of other crops, it is almost sufficient "to tickle the ground with a hoe to produce a harvest" of almost any kind. English potatoes, tomatoes, and onions are among the latest new developments of what the ground is capable of; also pine-apples, arrowroot, tamarinds, and all kinds of fruit, including the custard-apple, with its pulp resembling with startling vividness "the brains," so aptly alluded to by Tom Cringle of old. Kingsley was delighted with the brave show of fruit brought alongside the steamer: "Bunches of grapes, at St. Kitts, lay among other fruits, with bright scarlet capsicums, green coco-nuts tinged with orange, great yams and cush-cush, with strange pulse of various kinds and hues. The contents of these vegetable baskets were often as gay-coloured as the gaudy gowns and still gaudier turbans of the women who offered them for sale."

The higher slopes of the mountains are covered with a short grass, affording excellent pasturage, which could well be supplemented by proper feeding on such cakes and meal as the island produces in the raw material, and which have been alluded to under St. Lucia, Nevis, and Tobago.

The extraordinary nut of the Seychelles, known as the *coco-de-mer*, from its legendary growth beneath the sea,

has been here introduced and acclimatized with apparent success. These wonderful giant double coco-nuts were for long objects of mysterious interest, and were only found floating in the Indian Ocean, near the Maldivé Islands, and were appropriated by the king, who sold them at enormous prices; or they were used for their reputed medical properties. In shape, the fruit is like a mango or pointed egg. It is the inner nut that is double; whilst the interior jelly of the young unripe fruit, which would fill an ordinary soup-tureen, is of a sweet, melting, delicate, custard-like food; but when ripe is no longer fit to be eaten.

Like so many of the Lesser Antilles, St. Kitts possesses a natural remedial agency, in this case a "Salt Pond," about two miles in circumference, which—should the West Indies become that fashionable resort for the winter months for which they are so admirably suited—would afford invaluable brine-baths for invalids, similar to those now so well known at Droitwich, Worcestershire.

Anguilla, so called from its snake-like form, about sixty miles distant, is a dependency of this colony, and is a fairly prosperous island, with its population of 2500, of whom one hundred only are Europeans. Besides tobacco, maize, cattle, and ground provisions—the latter meeting with a ready sale at St. Thomas—the breeding of ponies is extensively carried on, while the trade in phosphate of lime and salt is decidedly on the increase. This, and the "Dogs," and other small neighbouring dependencies are remarkably healthy, and, like the Grenadines, suitable for seafaring peasantry of all nationalities.

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, AND HOME.

The traveller, having now done the grand tour, will make direct for Barbados, where he will change his quarters on board the inter-colonial vessel, for the more spacious deck of the Atlantic liner. Should he be disposed to continue his travels, he can from here proceed to Jamaica, and afterwards, taking the steamer to Colon, visit the ill-fated works of the Panama Canal, which proved even too stupendous an undertaking for *le grande Français*.

As the tourist may be able to visit St. Thomas from St. Kitts, before leaving for Barbados again, a brief reference to this Danish colony will not be amiss; and should the harbour be happily free from its too often pestilential qualities, he will have ample time for rowing to and fro, under the guidance of "Champagne Charlie" or some similar Cuffy, and for exploring the town and its vicinity. Should, however, the vessel be directed to anchor off Water Island, a second and healthier harbour in the Gri-gri Channel, he can be rowed ashore, and take final sketches of a tropical beach, and collect such curiosities as may have escaped his memory while journeying among the other islands.

A quaint place this, perched on the slopes of three hills, its excellent houses, with their scarlet roofs, peeping from among the variegated foliage of its numerous gardens; and withal a town where, when once ashore, an exceedingly pleasant time may be passed. Through the courtesy of the German consul, we always found a resting-place, after our small excursions, at its excellent social club-house, varying our sight-seeing by bargaining for pine-apples with the black ladies in the market-place,

and purchasing cigars, coral, and what not for our friends at home.

As we shall not touch at any of the other Virgin Islands, I will proceed to describe them, before the traveller leaves St. Thomas. They were discovered by the great navigator in 1493, and those of them belonging to Great Britain have been in our possession since 1666. Many of them are mere clusters of rocks, the total area of the whole being about fifty-eight square miles. The principal are Virgin Gorda, Tortola, Anegada, Jost Van Dyke, and Peter's Island, and also Sombrero, which, however, is not included in the colony. The capital of the whole is Roadtown, Tortola, with a population of four hundred, from which island come the pine-apples alluded to above. A small quantity of sugar is made in these islands, and during the American Civil War the landed proprietors planted cotton, which grows luxuriantly. There, being the very best of pasturage, the peasants go in for stock-rearing on a small scale, St. Thomas buying their cattle, ground provisions, turtle, and fish. They are a hardy, intelligent race, and, from constant sailing among the reefs and currents of the Virgin Islands, are the finest seamen in the West Indies. They have suffered, however, severely from hurricanes, which their more northerly position renders them liable to, their towns and villages having been twice destroyed, namely, in 1867 and 1871; but latterly they have been undisturbed. The climate here is naturally cooler than in our other West Indian colonies.

And now the Transatlantic liner—the inter-colonial steamers having each contributed their quota of passengers and goods—leaves Barbados, and we once again turn our faces to Old England, and are soon surrounded by the impressive but monotonous vista of waters, and

experiencing the long roll of the Atlantic swell. The change in mid-ocean from heat to cold is extremely trying for a while, and for three or four days one can with difficulty keep warm.

Within the fortnight we were anchored in Plymouth Harbour, arriving in early morning, and after passing the customs, caught the *Flying Dutchman* for London, and were once again with our own kith and kin, after (as all past and future visitors will admit) a most enchanting experience of the tropics, the memory of which will never fade so long as health and reason last.

VI.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING SETTLERS.

"There is a *land with sunny skies,*
Which gold for toil is giving,
Where every brawny hand that tries
Its strength can grasp a living.

* * * * *

"From poison'd air ye breathe in courts,
And typhus-tainted alleys,
Go forth, and dwell where health resorts,
In rural hills and valleys.

* * * * *

"Oh! hasten then from fever'd den,
And lodging cramp'd and small:
The world is wide in lands beside,
—There's room enough for all!"

HENRY RUSSELL, *Old Ballad.*

LET us now approach the practical subject—the West Indies as a home for the emigrant. Let no man emigrate to any colony, thinking to make a rapid fortune, or to find a very much different state of society to that of the old country. Never emigrate on the chance of getting employment. Always, as far as possible, have an engagement thoroughly cut and dried before starting—unless friends in the colonies desire one to come out to them, guaranteeing a home and occupation in the future,—so that the "new-chum" will not be compelled to spend his money idling about in the towns, looking for work; for it

must be borne in mind that strangers, without friends or references, are eyed with suspicion all the world over; while wandering listlessly in a tropical sunshine will probably beget some illness, which will hasten the return home again of the ill-advised emigrant. Above all, do not for one moment suppose that an idle man at home will be otherwise than a useless individual the other side of the water.

I address my remarks, then, to the healthy, hard-working, energetic labourer and artisan; to the small, industrious tenant-farmer, who cannot, with the utmost economy, make "two ends meet" in this country; and to the small and large capitalist who desire a profitable investment for their money; while there are recognized openings for gentlemen of the legal profession, and there are a large number of Government, medical, and legal appointments, the vacancies in which are filled up by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Although nearly all field and artisan labour is carried on by coloured workmen, it must not be supposed for one moment that—with the exception of labouring under the full heat of the sun in the cane-fields—Europeans are unable to work in the tropics; for the reader has only to turn to the history of these islands to learn how former settlers, by their own labour and energy, made an honest and most excellently remunerative livelihood; and there is no reason for supposing that the race of hardy pioneers has died out in the old country.

Thanks to enlightened ideas, new and varied industries have and are still springing up in these colonies, where, beneath shady groves, the white man may not only labour with immunity from danger of sunstroke, but may for a few pounds own sufficient land to support in comfort himself, his wife, and family. In most of the islands the

negroes own land and cattle or sheep; they cultivate the sugar-cane and ground vegetables on their own account, so that their position is far more independent than that of the European peasantry; and all the time they are enabled to obtain, if they wish, almost constant employment on the neighbouring estates or in the factories. That our own labouring people can do the same is being demonstrated by actual experience, and, as a case in proof, we find Sir George H. Chambers last year stating, before the London Chamber of Commerce, that, although "it was perfectly true that white people could not labour in the sun as the negroes did, under the shade they did well; and some poor people he sent out some time ago from Hampshire to work in the sugar factories had turned out very successful colonists." It does really seem very absurd to be compelled to demonstrate that a country originally the home of British settlers is capable of being worked in by descendants of these very men or their friends. But such is the case, and these bountiful lands are neglected because persons are actually afraid to settle there. The coloured artisans are neither skilful nor satisfactory workmen, and a good Britisher could always beat them, and obtain plenty of remunerative work. Wood-carvers and decorators are almost unknown, and would make more than a competency; for many gentlemen, in pointing out to me the bare beams and other wood-work of their verandahs, have regretted their inability to get them beautified.

Again, overseers on sugar plantations are often white men, and by steady industry rise to become planters. It is, however, a hard life, and, in my opinion, unsuitable for young fellows straight from a more temperate climate. Nevertheless, there are those who undertake the work, persevere, and succeed. On the other hand, overseers and

managers on cacao or coco-nut plantations, as agents to owners in England or elsewhere, would find, at all events, a shady occupation, and withal a very enjoyable one, with suitable companionship. Further, there are agents who combine business at home in connection with a West Indian agency, and spend alternate half-years in either country; having very often a hardware or other store in the principal town of the island where they are employed, which during their absence is left in charge of a relative or sub-agent, who also keeps an eye on the plantations in the charge of his employer. To those wishing to start in business in any of the various stores to be found in every town or village of importance, I would advise previous consultation with one of these roving agents; who, being thoroughly up in the requirements of their several islands, can best advise as to where and in what line a store may most advantageously be started, or may recommend the purchase of an old-established concern, the *bona fides* of which he can guarantee.

To small capitalists, these colonies offer a fair prospect of making a comfortable livelihood. The various industries for which they are suited will be found under the article headed "Other Industries;" but as so much attention is now being directed to the cultivation of cacao, otherwise "cocoa," any information regarding the cost of planting, etc., cannot but be of service to those who think of settling in the British West Indies.

An emigrant arriving—say in Trinidad, as more fully representing the cacao interest than any other island—with a capital of £100, with ordinary diligence and attention to his work, not only can keep himself and family comfortably and respectably, but at the end of seven years would have a property worth £1000, giving a return of £100 a year, by investing thus:—

Ten acres virgin land, at £1 per acre	£10
Clearing and planting same, at £2 per acre	20
Building cottage	40
Implements and 6 months' living	30
Total	£100

On ten acres of land, with house and garden, there would be about 2500 cacao trees. Three months after cultivation, the land would yield abundance of all sorts of vegetables, and in six months the settler would get a crop of potatoes, yams, maize, etc. Provisions are grown between the rows of cacao trees whilst coming to perfection, and would give far beyond the requirements of the settler, leaving abundance to sell to supply cash. Plenty of feeding could be obtained from these ten acres, sufficient for two cows or a horse and cow.

The above shows the returns obtainable by an ordinary emigrant, but a man capable of thoroughly developing the resources of his holding could make £200 a year from it.

Of course a man with £200 to invest, and a spare £100 in the bank, may commence planting a cacao estate under perhaps more favourable circumstances; but it must be borne in mind that the pioneers of old were after Rodney's pattern, "ten-acre men," and it was to their energy and success that the West Indies became a very mine of wealth to their fortunate possessors; and there is no doubt that an educated, well-informed peasant proprietorship would in a great measure help to restore prosperity to these colonies.

To those possessed of sufficient means, and determined to reside—at all events for a considerable portion of each year—on their estate, I would recommend a cacao plantation of 150 acres, which, with an average of 250 trees to the acre, would comprise 37,500 trees, yielding in seven

years two pounds per tree, equal to 450 bags of cacao. The yield from four to five years is from half a pound to one pound per tree.

The average worth per bag is £5. Thus the whole produce would be worth £2250; cost of up-keep £2 per bag, or £900, leaving a yearly balance of £1350; surely a very handsome profit on so comparatively small an expenditure as the following :—

150 acres of cacao lands, at £10 per acre	£1500
Outlay on planting, during 5 years	1000
Capital required	£2500

If near a town, the owner of such an estate, whilst attending to the growth of his young trees, could superintend a store or other business; or pasture and farming lands in the immediate neighbourhood would pay handsomely, as vegetables, fruits, and grass for stock in town are in great demand, and this farming could indeed be worked on the same lands and without extra capital. Of course the establishment of a store would involve a further expenditure.

To show the extreme profitableness of a cacao estate of 150 acres in full bearing condition, I may state that recent sales of such vary from £7000 to £10,000, and that it is considered on all hands a safe investment.

A suitable and durable house could be erected on a new plantation in four to six weeks, at a cost of from £150 to £200; and in the principal islands the furniture for such can be obtained at a reasonable price, thus saving heavy freightage charges and import duties on goods from our own country.

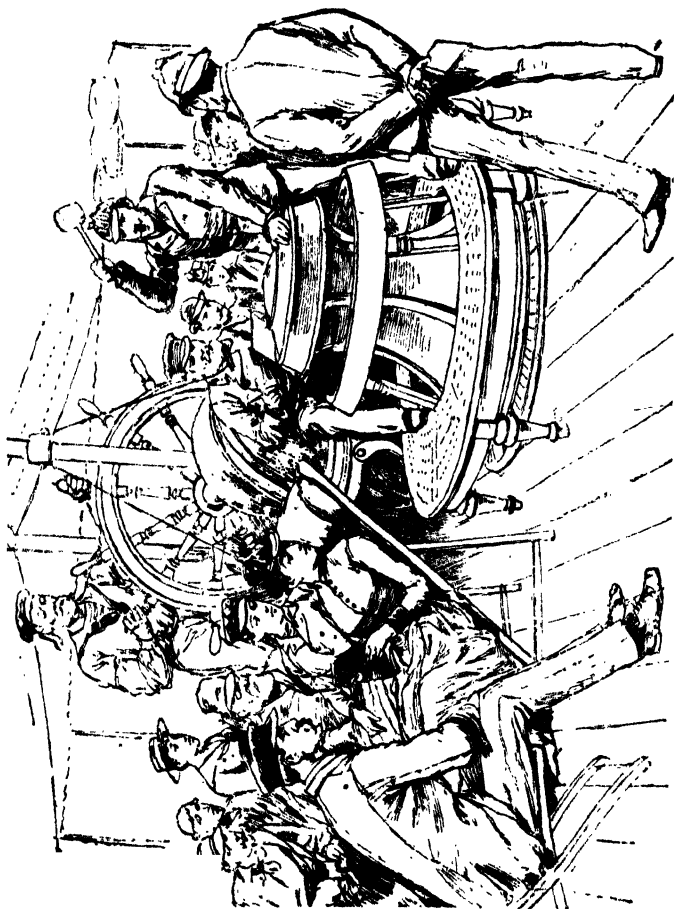
It is impossible, within the scope of this book, to go further into the expenditure necessary for the due cultivation of other products, but I may add that coco-nut plan-

tations may be started under very similar conditions, while limes, fruits, tobaccos, and fibre plants each and all offer a wide field of industry to the new-comer.

The settler, of whatever class, had better take very little ready money in his pocket, but deposit his capital at the Colonial Bank, 13, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., where he can get an order payable on demand at its branch in the principal town of the island where he lands. Should the inexperienced traveller journey overburdened with an unusually heavy purse, he courts the liability of its being considerably lightened of its precious contents during the voyage; either by being drawn into gambling at cards, a remunerative pastime common to a certain set on most Transatlantic steamers, or by the temptation to speculate too recklessly in the daily—and to cool-headed passengers of means, pleasantly—exciting lottery regarding the good ship's speed; the *modus operandi* has been alluded to under "The Voyage." Let him, moreover, keep his purse-strings well tied to the application for temporary loans by the apparently needy ones, who, through gambling or otherwise, have, or pretend to have, lost all their ready cash.

Again, with regard to outfit, the intending settler or visitor had better consult some eminent house, who may advise him as to what is necessary to be taken, and thereby be saved the mortification of finding out, on taking up his abode in the new country, that he has burdened himself with unnecessaries, and wasted much valuable money; and it must further be borne in mind that the import duties on articles otherwise than mere personal luggage are by no means light. Such a firm of colonial outfitters as Messrs. S. W. Silver and Co., of Cornhill, London, would—I can state from personal experience—give reliable information as to what should or should not be taken, and

as they publish a special list of necessaries for the West Indies, which includes many of their patents and specialties,



SELLING THE FOOL TICKETS ON BOARD THE S.S. "MOSELLE."

the intending traveller cannot do better than put himself in communication with them.

Further, the traveller can reduce any risk of loss or damage to his personal effects by insuring the same in some respectable office like "The Union Marine Insurance Company, Limited;" and whilst I am on the subject, I would most strongly advise him, when contemplating effecting an insurance on his property in the West Indies, to look for some company of long standing in the old country—such, for instance, as "The Imperial Insurance Company"—and not trust himself to the numerous representative American agents he will encounter in every island of the Lesser Antilles.

With regard to climate, it is quite enjoyable, and, although hot, by no means unhealthy. In all cases the higher grounds are more suited to Europeans than the coast; but it is quite possible to enjoy the very best of health in the towns on the various bays, and hundreds of our countrymen spend the best part of their lives in transacting ordinary business in their busy thoroughfares. The chief dangers to health are from chills and imprudent living; but with ordinary care and prudence, the settler may rely on a truly pleasant existence. An ordinary bad cold, with feverish symptoms, to which we are by no means unaccustomed in the British Isles, may probably attack and debilitate the new-comer during his first year's residence; but it is shaken off, and the man is then acclimatized. West Indians use the word *fever* as we do *cold*; hence so many misconceptions as to the prevalence of the former.

As it is my main object in writing this Guide to explode old false impressions regarding epidemics, and danger to health and life by residing in these beautiful settlements, in which our forefathers lived and worked, albeit not so careful of their health as they might have been, I propose referring briefly to many fancied and

highly exaggerated diseases, supposed by the ignorant to affect coloured and white folk alike.

Consumption and pulmonary ailments are almost unknown, except amongst *the coloured population*, whose too often early excesses and want of proper nourishment bring on the former cruel complaint, which carries them off in their youth, as, alas! we know is too often the case in this country. Elephantiasis, a most fearful disorder, which causes the feet, legs, and lower portions of the body to assume gigantic proportions, and of which I witnessed most painful specimens in the spacious and well-conducted hospital in Port of Spain, Trinidad, is confined to *the coloured population*; as also (with a few isolated exceptions) is leprosy, that appalling and loathsome thing of which we read in Holy Writ, although in the West Indies it takes the form of swellings and running humours, and is thus different to that of Eastern countries. Leprosy, then, is confined almost without exception to *the coloured population*; and in many cases noble ladies minister to their comfort in the hospitals away in the high woods, erected for their reception.

Once only I saw "a leper as white as snow," and that was one morning when opening my latticed window in the house of a beautifully situated cacao plantation. The house stood on a high green hill overlooking the sea, a stone figure of the Virgin Mary standing out in bold relief against the distant waters; and right and left were the trees of cacao, surmounted by the scarlet-flowered *Bois immortelles*. Innumerable parrots and other gaudy-coloured birds were flitting to and fro, huge lizards and enormous spiders were crawling over the walls, which were surmounted by a thatch of palm-leaves (similar to those used as fans and fire-screens), and the dusky labourers were passing here and there, with loads of

freshly-shelled cacao-nibs ready for sweating and drying, when my attention was drawn to a negress bearing on her head fruits and vegetables, and followed by a white boy. I was so surprised at seeing one apparently of my own race in this out-of-the-way plantation, that I questioned my host as to the strange phenomenon, and he informed me that this was a leper negro boy, who, having reached this stage of the disease, was cured, and as well as any one. It was a strange sight—thick lips, broad nose, woolly hair; and yet a white skin; the peculiar hue being quite distinct from the appearance presented by those faded specimens of humanity, known as “white negroes.” The latest consensus of medical opinion, I believe, affirms the disease of leprosy to be non-contagious, under ordinary conditions of life.

I do not mean to assert that if a man deliberately courts the plague, by eating of bread made and meat slaughtered by lepers, and lives among and daily and hourly associates with persons suffering from this disease, he can possibly avoid becoming contaminated; any more than a nurse attending on a ward of patients with diseases of the chest and throat, runs no danger of being affected by their disorders; or that women working in lead-mills are not liable to “their brains coming out of their ears” * from lead poisoning: such are the natural results of constant association with poisonous exhalations. Yet we have had the case of noble Father Damien living under these very conditions at the leper settlement of Kalawao, and, moreover, having in his priestly capacity to visit his plague-stricken flock in the direst hours of their extremity, when the very atmosphere must have reeked with poison; notwithstanding all which, it was, I believe, *thirteen years* before he himself contracted the disease. This is contamination, not contagion.

* Dickens’s “Uncommercial Traveller.”

Yellow fever is no longer the dreaded scourge it used to be in the past; improved sanitary appliances and attention to health and diet having warded it off in most cases effectually from the islands, many having had a twenty-five years' immunity from its attacks, and outbreaks generally being of rare occurrence. When we consider the barbarous remedies resorted to in former times, when too frequently the unhappy victim died in the throes of a mad drunken bout, we cannot wonder at the number of deaths consequent on an outbreak of this fever; now, I am informed, the juice of the lime—that inestimable boon to those living in the tropics—well rubbed all over the body, and frequent doses of quinine, readily effect a cure.

A teetotaler to the backbone I cannot advise to emigrate to these colonies, unless he can see his way to an occasional dash of whisky in the water he drinks, which, although generally pure in the large towns, is not always to be rashly partaken of elsewhere. Avoid, then, drink (save in the temperate manner described above), especially malt liquors, and do not saturate your constitution with a too liberal use of quinine, which should be taken but seldom, otherwise its saving efficacy may be lost when most needed; live well and work well; and with proper warm flannel clothing next to the skin, and due precaution against chills, imprudence of every kind, and ordinary care not to inhale bad smells and foul drainage; a man, his wife and family, may pass a happy contented life, surrounded by God's most glorious works of creation, with everything the heart may desire, and with a blessed freedom from the trials and turmoils of our too thickly populated Britain.

There is yet another class who might live in comfort here; and Kingsley, referring to the desirability of Monos as a place of residence, thus alludes to them: "Why

should not many a young couple, who have education, refinement, resources in themselves, but are, happily or unhappily for them, unable to keep a brougham and go to London balls, retreat to some such paradise as this (and there are hundreds like it to be found in the West Indies), leaving behind them false civilization, and vain desires, and useless show, and there live in simplicity and content 'the gentle life'!"

According to Mr. Clifford, who has lately visited a leper settlement, women are less liable to leprosy than men, and he gives a remarkable case in point. "One woman accompanied her husband to Molokai when he became a leper, and at his death became the wife of another leper. He died, and she married another, and another after his demise. So that she has lived with four leper husbands, and yet remains healthy." Further, the *Dainik*, one of the vernacular newspapers of Calcutta, in discussing the provisions of the draft Bill of the Indian Government dealing with the advisability of providing enforced asylums for lepers, writes: "If the disease had been infectious, the whole earth would have been filled with lepers by this time."

VII.

THE CULTIVATION OF SUGAR, CACAO, AND COCO-NUTS.

SUGAR.

I NOW come to what is to myself the most interesting portion of my book, and that which took me out to the West Indies—the study of the cultivation of sugar, cacao, and coco-nuts; and I sincerely trust that what I now write may both interest and perhaps open out new ideas in the minds of my readers, as to the profitableness of emigration to so happy a land.

To begin with sugar. The cultivation of the cane, except in Barbados, is carried on principally by coolie labour; the planters having found to their cost that the negroes, since their freedom, seek other and more congenial work, leaving their employers in the lurch at the most critical time, without the smallest compunction or sense of obligation with regard to their duty as hired labourers. At times, however, when you come across negroes and coolies working together in the cane-field, you have the same pleasant experience of a well-managed set of labourers as here described: “You pull up, and take off your hat to the party. The negroes shout, ‘Marning, sah!’ The coolies salaam gracefully, hand to forehead; you return the salaam, hand to heart, which is considered

the correct thing on the part of a superior in rank; whereat the coolies look exceedingly pleased, and then the whole party, without visible reason, burst into shouts of laughter."

It is a picturesque and interesting sight, especially in the cutting-time, when the Hindoos, attired in their simple but graceful linen cloths, are all—men, women, and children—hard at work, some with cutlasses reaping the tall canes, while others load them on bullock or mule carts and convey them away to the crushing mill. Here, split into segments, they are reduced to pulp, before undergoing the several boilings to which the juice is afterwards subjected. It is then ready to be ladled, or run, into the huge cooling pans, until it attains sufficient consistency to allow of its removal to barrels, placed in rows and standing on open floors, so that the molasses or treacle may ooze out and run into the open tank beneath. After due draining, the casks of sugar are battened down and exported, generally after lying on the wharf for some considerable time, during which you may observe the little coloured ragamuffins collecting the drippings mixed freely with sand, and apparently enjoying the same. The molasses are either converted into rum, much of which is an abominably pernicious compound, or sent off in barrels to England and America.

In the cane-field are overseers, some black, many white, and these latter very often young Scotchmen, who go out thinking it is a grand thing to be an overseer; but hardly one in ten can stand the work, being continually exposed to a tropical sun, and, worst of all, having to be up before sunrise, when unhealthy vapours are exuding from the ground, more especially if in the neighbourhood of a swamp. And here let me advise the intending emigrant

to pause—unless going to reside with relatives or friends, who will attend to his welfare—before accepting any work connected with sugar; for he will afterwards, as a rule, bitterly repent ever having left his native country. I am, of course, referring to the entire stranger, who—with no friends to receive him, no previous knowledge of the nature of his new work, and under what totally different conditions to those to which he is accustomed, he will be required to perform that work—hastens to accept a high-sounding post, which generally, through no fault of his own, he is unable to fulfil the duties of. To he who has friends ready to receive him, and to look after his welfare, it is a different case, and the young overseer may in good time rise to become a planter, especially if he has future expectations from the old country; for where the soil is properly adapted for the cultivation of the cane, there it ought to be grown (the fault lying in the fact of its having been cultivated in islands unsuitable for its growth); so that the young planter, if assiduous in attending personally to his crops, may always reckon on a return sufficiently remunerative to enable him to live in comfort, especially now that the continental sugar bounties are in process of being abolished.

The cane is grown in sets or cuttings, varying in different parts from three thousand to nine thousand per English acre. The crop is usually estimated by the amount of sugar obtained, which has been found to average about two tons of dry sugar per acre, the proportion of juice extracted from the cane by the crushing mill being about seventy-five per cent. The canes are generally from six to ten feet long, and should be passed through the mill within eighteen to twenty-four hours of cutting.

To purely sugar islands, such as Barbados and Antigua,

the intending settler had best then direct his way, and, following the advice of Mr. Morris by "confining his attention to the purely cultural operations of a sugar estate," test for himself the variety of cane best adapted to the soil, invest freely in the best chemical and other manures, particulars of which are given below, and consign his raw produce to some central *usine* (as is possible in Trinidad and St. Lucia), if happily such exist within reasonable distance. Such a system as this is now being pursued with regard to dairy produce, in many parts of the old country, farmers for miles round consigning their milk to some central factory for conversion into butter, which, being of uniform manufacture, ensures to the customer a superior article, and to the producer a like profit. Where the establishment of a *usine* is impracticable, the capitalised investor in the sugar interest must see that he possesses the most modern machinery for producing an article as good as, if not superior to, that produced in other colonies; for only by making use of the latest scientific improvements can such a one push forward his produce in the home markets.

When we consider that even at the present time a capital of some £50,000,000 sterling is stated to be invested in the sugar industry of the West Indies, it is a fact patent to all that the failure and extinction of such an interest would mean little less than almost total extinction of life in many of these islands. As has been well remarked, "The sugar-grass, therefore, and the chimneys of the boiling-houses are the outward and visible signs of a great industry, on the continuance of which all classes forming the community depend for their subsistence. Nor is it to be wondered at; climate and soil are both especially adapted for the growth of the sugar-cane, and the industry

has not only an historical right to live, but a right founded upon its own intrinsic merits, as capable of producing this article of food as cheaply as any other tropical portion of the empire, and more economically than the beet-growing districts of Europe." *

To this we may all accede, adding, however, the proviso that the sugar industry be confined to those islands whose position and soil is suited for its proper production, and that it should not be longer permitted to spread itself like the gigantic arms of an octopus, embracing every island within its folds, and smothering out other smaller industries more suited to peculiarities of those West Indian colonies which are quite unsuited for producing sugar.

MANURING OF THE SUGAR-CANE.

The subject of manuring the sugar-cane is a very important one, deserving the careful attention of every planter. Upon its successful solution depends in a great measure not only the bulk of the crop, but also its quality and the permanent value of an estate.

Up to within comparatively recent years, planters were without trustworthy information for their guidance and the purchase and application of artificial manures, and large sums of money were expended in fertilizing materials, sometimes unsuitable in character, and sometimes shamefully adulterated. The advance of analytical science has done much to remove such disadvantages, and the depression of the sugar trade, by obliging planters to exercise more care in the outlay of their money, has tended in the same direction.

The sugar-cane requires liberal treatment with appro-

* *Sugar*, November 1, 1888.

priate manures in order to yield an abundant crop. It is calculated that

	Nitrogen.		Mineral constituents, chiefly potash- and phosphoric acid.
	lbs.		lbs.
A crop of 30 tons canes and tops extracts from the soil	30	...	300

while

A crop of 2½ tons wheat, grass, and straw extracts	66	...	64
" 20 " turnips " "	116	...	301
" 8 " potatoes " "	77	...	187

and it must further be borne in mind that, whereas in growing wheat, turnips, etc., the land is relieved by rotation crops, the cane crop is a continuous one, and the drain in soil is therefore exceptionally heavy. As the cane extracts, besides nitrogen, large quantities of potash, phosphoric acid, and other mineral matter, it is necessary to replace in the soil, not only one ingredient, but the series of fertilizing constituents taken up by the plant. This consideration indicates the danger, the practical reality of which has been proved by experience, of applying two exclusively nitrogenous manures, such as sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda. It also shows why complete manures, such as pen manure and Peruvian guano, have always proved so successful in producing good crops. Prominent among the experiments which have been made with the view of studying the application of sugar-cane, stand those conducted annually in the island of Barbados by the Government consulting analyst, Professor Harrison, conjointly with Mr. J. R. Bovell, and in these comparative trials the most profitable results have been yielded for several successive years by Peruvian guano in the well-known form of Ohlendorff's dissolved Peruvian guano, with a small dressing of early cane manure when plant-

ing. Both fertilizers are manufactured by the Anglo-Continental (late Ohlendorff's) Guano Works, 15, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C., and are strongly recommended.

Another well-known manufactory is that of the Nitrophosphate and Odam's Chemical Manure Company, occupying six acres of land on the Thames, just below the entrance to the Victoria Docks, with offices at 116, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C. This company has for several years shipped large quantities of judiciously prepared fertilizers to the colonies; notably, a special cane fertilizer which has been used with much success in the West Indies; and, moreover, the same firm supply special preparations for coffee, cotton, tea, and tobacco plants, as well as a complete manure adapted for general use, the whole being supplied under guarantee of analysis by the leading chemists. Such analysis shows them all to be rich in soluble phosphates and ammonia and nitrogenous organic constituents, as well as the necessary proportion of potash salts.

In view of the partial decadence of Peruvian guano, which in the past has been so much used in the West Indies by growers of sugar, tobacco, cotton, etc., it is interesting and satisfactory to find that a valuable substitute is in the field in the shape of Jensen's guanos. The value and the regularly increasing demand for these fertilizers have proportionately increased, where Peruvian guano has been less used by growers.

Jensen's guano—the "C.P." brand—has the analysis of what is known as a "complete" or "normal" manure, containing as it does ammonia, phosphates, and potash in large proportions. The condition of this fertilizer leaves nothing to be desired, being finely pulverized and containing less than five per cent. of moisture. Jensen's guanos can be strongly recommended to growers of all

crops, as highly concentrated organic fertilizers of the first class. They have been very favourably reported upon by Dr. Voelcker, of London, and by Professor Harrison, of the Government Laboratory, Barbados. The London address of the manufacturers is J. Jensen and Co., Limited, 109, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

By a study of the reports of trials made, and by making experiments with different fertilizers on their own estates, planters can form a trustworthy opinion as to the most suitable fertilizers for their own requirements, and will find themselves able to increase their crops, while often economizing their manure account, by judicious purchasing, and by taking care that the manures supplied are of a reliable character.

SPECIAL MACHINERY.

Here it falls to be noted that the general depression of the trade in machinery for the manufacture of sugar in our own colonies and the tropics generally, consequent upon the bounties given on the export of sugar from various continental countries, though now happily soon to be a thing of the past, have not prevented Messrs. Manlove, Alliott, and Co. from bringing forward new specialties in this branch of their business, and they have recently introduced special apparatus for the production of "granulated" sugar—a material which, within the last year or two, has found much favour amongst consumers, and also for the production of cube sugar, which is at present largely taking the place of the irregular lumps made out of loaf sugar, which a few years ago were practically the only form of lump sugar in use in this country. The granulated sugar consists of very small, but perfectly white and brilliant crystals, and these

need to be thoroughly dried and cooled, in order that the most perfect article may be produced. To enable these operations to be effected, a special revolving cylinder is used, in which heat and warm air are applied for the purposes of drying, while at the same time the sugar is cooled before being finally discharged. Cube sugar is manufactured by various forms of apparatus; but that in which it can most satisfactorily and economically be produced is a special form of centrifugal machine provided with movable boxes or moulds, in which slabs or square sticks of sugar are produced; these being afterwards formed into cubes by being passed through suitable cutting machines. All the machinery for effecting these processes is produced at Blooms Grove Works, Nottingham, England, as also is miscellaneous sugar plant upon the most approved modern systems. I should mention also that the firm is now engaged in constructing a new form of filter for sugar-making purposes, possessing some considerable advantages over those in general use.

Several kinds of mills have been used, but one of the most generally adopted is that with three horizontal rollers, as manufactured by Messrs. R. Waygood and Co., of the Newington Iron Works, Falmouth Road, London, S.E., and which may be worked by cattle, steam, or water power. These engineers have also published an excellent ground plan of a good arrangement for a colonial sugar factory, of which the following is a description:—

Steam is generated in the boiler and transmitted by the main steam pipe to the different apparatus. The cane is conveyed by hand to the self-acting feed-table, passed through the crushing mill, then taken into the drying-room, and, after being drained, is used as fuel. The juice from the cane is pumped into a receiving tank, from which it flows into a trough, thence into the clarifiers as re-

quired ; when the process of clarification is complete, the liquor flows into the bag filters beneath. The process of defecation is next carried out in the vacuum pan, and completed in the heater. Should raw sugar be required, it is put into a centrifugal machine after passing the heater. All the apparatus used for clarifying, etc., are supplied with steam at a proper temperature from expansion valves.

Such a sugar factory may be arranged to produce raw and refined sugar at the same time, if desired.

It behoves me now to touch briefly upon the recent Sugar Bounties Convention. We are all aware that formerly the trade in sugar was a West Indian monopoly, but that when other countries found their climate and soil equally suitable for producing the cane, a competition arose, which obliged West Indians to lower their prices. No one could find fault with this. A healthy competition is always desirable; otherwise consumers are at the complete mercy of the producer, and are obliged very often, for want of such competition, to put up with an inferior article.

What was the consequence? An improved system of agriculture and a vastly perfected machinery, which two combined gave the buyer sugar of the very highest quality. I do not suppose that any reasonable colonist found fault with such fair and open competition. The Emancipation Act, no doubt, put a new complexion on the working of the sugar interest; but here again we find that those islands that went the right way to work were enabled to obtain labourers in the cane-fields, and in good time all might have righted again. But to quote Mr. Froude, "On the back of these came the unnatural bounty-fed beetroot-sugar competition." I must candidly

state that a very common opinion among dwellers in the old country is, that if colonists will be so short-sighted as to sell us sugar for less than it costs to produce, it seems like going out of our way in interfering to protect them against the consequences of so doing. It is their matter rather than ours. However, be that as it may, no lover of fair play can be otherwise than delighted that a most underhand system of competition has received its death-blow; and, however much one may be disposed to find fault with the apathy too often displayed by colonials in failing to attend to their own interests, one may reasonably hope that the agreements recently negotiated may be the turning-point in the hitherto downward track of all West Indian sugar industries.

To place the whole matter in a nutshell, let us read the opinion expressed by Mr. N. Lubbock, chairman of the West India Committee: "The advantage of the Convention to British labour consists in the fact that under Free Trade British colonies will produce, and British refiners will refine, sugar which, under a system of bounties, is produced and refined by foreign labour;" and it is the opinion of those best acquainted with the sugar industry that, when the treaty be ratified, so far from the abolition of bounties raising, it will eventually lower, the price of this commodity.

The temporary delay in proceeding to the second reading of the "Sugar Bill" in the House of Commons should cause but little apprehension among planters in the British West Indies. The attempt to carry such a measure, striking as it does at the very basis of Protection, has very naturally aroused the hostility of foreign speculators, who, taking advantage of the scarcity of our own cane sugar, induced by the bounty system, have run up the price, and by clever, or rather artful, manipula-

tion, have so timed the increase that it should exactly coincide with the introduction of the "Sugar Bill."

It is idle to reason with persons suffering from a panic, and a million households may be up in arms against an innocent man, egged on by the very promoters themselves of the panic. Time therefore is required to educate those people of the United Kingdom who, in a small but appreciable minority, have put themselves in opposition to the passing of this Bill, and our Government have acted most wisely in deferring the question until the uncommercial public will have learned how it was that sugar lately rose in price, through one of those "corners" which are a feature, and not a happy feature, of our times; and that the "Sugar Bill" they had then regarded as the cause of the mischief, so far from exercising a deterrent influence on the price of this staple commodity, would cause an unbroken continuity of low prices to be secured.

Once the Convention is ratified and the bounties abolished, "rigging" the market would be impossible, because the supply would be more than adequate to the demand, and sugar could never again be spasmodically cheap and occasionally abnormally dear.

The Bill has been presented and read a first time, and no more is required at present. The treaty can be ratified without any legislation, which was the course followed in the instance of the Cobden Treaty. Nay, more than this, as the Bill before Parliament is only to enable her Majesty, by Order in Council, to give effect to Clause VII. of the Convention, when or if a case for prohibition arise, legislation need not be introduced until immediately before the date of the execution of the treaty in September, 1891; and it might even be postponed until after that date, so long as it preceded the

first meeting of the permanent commission provided for by Article VI. of the Convention.

There is plenty of breathing-time, and, as I have had occasion to remark before, the people of the United Kingdom, when once they are thoroughly imbued with the idea that injustice is being perpetrated upon their fellow-creatures, no matter of what nationality or in what portion of the globe, are not slow in insisting that the cause of that injustice be at once removed; and therefore the long-suffering planters of the British West Indies may rest assured that the "abolition of bounties" is as certain of accomplishment as has been the "abolition of slavery," and that the English people will never stand by and see their own "kith and kin" impoverished by a system as hateful as any forged on the anvil of Protection.

Planters should, however, see to their own interests, and by combination, and the free distribution of practical literature throughout the United Kingdom, so assist the Government in educating the minds of the people, that when the Convention comes to be ratified in September, 1891, there may be but a fraction, if any, of opposition to so just a treaty; and meanwhile the Government may have so remodelled their measure as to appreciably remove any grounds for legitimate opposition.

CACAO.

And now let us turn to a refreshing, cool picture, a cacao plantation. Here, on its low, spreading trees, hang the pods, containing the nibs from which is compounded that delicious beverage so aptly termed "Theobroma" (food of the gods), the quaffing of whose frothy nectar raised the spirits of those Spaniards who first tasted it

above the sphere of ordinary mortals. Chocolate was part of their spoil in the conquest of Mexico, and Bernardo de Castile, who accompanied Cortez, describing one of Montezuma's banquets, writes: "They brought in among the dishes above fifty great jars made of 'cacao,' with its froth, and drank it, similar jars being served to the guards and attendants, to the number of two thousand at least"

The Spaniards successfully cultivated this product during their possession of some of our West Indian colonies, and although early British settlers at first failed in the attempt, yet by the middle of the seventeenth century we find it sold in England as "an excellent West Indian drink," in a shop in "Queen's Head Alley, Bishopsgate," and to be bought of one Mortimer, "an honest though poor man," who lived in East Smithfield, and sold the best kind at 6s. 8d. per pound, and commoner sorts at about half that price.

In fact, the "Chocolate House" became the rendezvous of all the celebrated men of the day, and was immortalized by Addison and Steele, the famous essayists of the period. Towards the middle of the present century it was an established beverage for all classes, and since that time has steadily advanced in public estimation. There are not wanting several firms in England who have striven to raise a high ideal in this laudable enterprise—perfecting an invaluable gift of nature—and prominent amongst them stands the famous house at Bristol and London, Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons.

It must be borne in mind that cacao is essentially a West Indian industry, that other colonies in different parts of the world have forwarded its cultivation with but moderate success, and that therefore it ranks next to sugar as a production of the very highest importance. Climate and situation alike are all in its favour, and its

consumption is steadily increasing. The planter and his labourers work in the shade all day, the cacao-trees being in turn shaded by the superb *Bois immortelles*, fifty or sixty feet in height, which are specially planted for this purpose, and tower majestically above their charge, a mass of red flowers and chestnut-like branches—a sight I was fortunate enough to behold, and which of itself was worth the voyage.

Cacao is grown on virgin forest land, or indeed on former cane plantations, and in the former case a five years' contract is generally entered into with a set of negroes, who undertake free of charge to clear the forest, plant the young trees at a stipulated distance apart, with so many *Bois immortelles* to the acre. At the expiration of five years a perfect plantation is delivered over to the owner, for which he pays from a shilling to a dollar (4s. 2d.) per tree. Meantime, the contractors have been utilizing the intervening spaces for the cultivation of vegetables, on the sale of which they have made large profits, at the same time greatly benefiting the young plantation by keeping the ground continually broken, and so preventing the cacaos from being destroyed by creepers. The owner has now only to be careful, and he can reckon on a constant crop of pods, which may be picked at all seasons, according to their ripeness. These pods are yellow, green, and a purple red, the latter being the favourite colour. When opened, you see a pink pulp, like cotton wool, of indescribable taste, enclosed in which are the rows of nibs, varying in number from twenty to forty. A mass of these interiors are thrown into the "sweating house," and covered with a layer of sand; here fermentation ensues, which has the effect of developing the aroma while it takes off the bitterness of the nibs. The pulp having disappeared, the nibs are placed on long

trays, running on wheels one above the other, each being exposed to the full force of the sun, and in case of a shower (which comes on without warning), they are instantly run in beneath the shelter of their common roof, until all danger is past. When duly dried and sorted, these are despatched in bags to the coast, for shipment to England, France, and other countries.

In the island of Trinidad a manufactory formerly existed for the preparation of chocolate; but, owing to the action of the fair Creoles in refusing to eat any but of European make, the enterprise was perforce abandoned. Consequently the cacao is transported in its raw state across the Atlantic, and returns duly converted into chocolate, and that principally by a celebrated French firm, who have a thriving establishment at Port of Spain.

In connection with this enterprise, I feel bound to acknowledge the enormous advantages derived by Trinidad from the presence of its considerable foreign element, and will quote from Mr. Salmon's book, entitled "The Caribbean Confederation," a corroboration of this opinion: "The Spanish and French elements (a good deal of which is aristocratic in origin) have given a *cachet* to this colony possessed by none other under the Crown. They are as enterprising as the British element, and, perhaps from not being bound to the same narrow views about the all-potency of sugar, they have helped to keep up the cultivation of cacao and other valuable productions for which this island is now getting so good a name. Trinidad has much of that about it which gives it a right to be looked on as a kind of metropolis—a splendid tropical climate, land marvellously rich, a magnificent natural harbour, and a grand geographical position for trade."

This island, be it remembered, is, with Grenada, "the home of cacao," and the preparation of plantations such

as described above can be undertaken as well by white as by coloured persons.

I feel I should be wrong in parting with this subject without one word of warning. Planters have hitherto been trusting too implicitly in one great industry, and it would indeed be a pity were cacao to be similarly treated. Great as is the consumption of this product, and suitable in all respects as the West Indies undoubtedly are for its successful cultivation, we must not ignore the fact of this evergreen being grown with varying success in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and throughout almost the whole of Central America, in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, New Grenada, Venezuela, Surinam, Essequibo, throughout portions of Africa, in Mauritius, Madagascar, Isle de Bourbon, Ceylon, Australia, the Philippine Islands, as well as in the foreign West Indian islands. Although I do not altogether agree with Mr. Wilcher, who, in his pamphlet entitled "The Sources of Discontent in the West Indies," states that the success of this industry will be almost ephemeral, yet I shall quote his opinion in order that, as far as in me lies, I may direct the attention of West Indians against placing their trust again in *any* single industry. Mr. Wilcher writes: "In ten or twelve years' time, great though the demand for cocoa in the European market may be, the supply will more than meet it; and while the cost of manufacture in Europe will probably remain a fixed property, the price of the raw material will fall so low as to render its production unprofitable."

Let us hope, then, that should so unfortunate a period arrive, it may find each and every planter with more than one string to his bow, and that, while cultivating his cacao with all diligence and attention, he may at the same time be growing one or more of the various products specified under the section on "Other Industries."

COCO-NUTS.

My next experience, that of the cultivation of coco-nuts, is perhaps the most interesting of all. Here the grower is not only in the shade, but the palms being so much higher than cacao trees, and yet free from creepers and all that excludes light and air, enable him to enjoy the blessings of both, and to move in a more pleasant atmosphere than either the cane or cacao planter. The amber-coloured light and shade of a coco-nut plantation is truly delightful, agreeable to the eye, and to the heated traveller refreshing to a degree.

Here is a description of one of the finest *cocales* in the West Indies, and where I enjoyed the greatest hospitality during my visit. On a low sandy shore—for coco-nut palms always flourish close to the sea, their roots seeming to imbibe great nourishment from its saline properties—is the *cocale* called “Constance,” situated at Icacos, in the ward of Cedros, south of the island of Trinidad. It comprises 680 acres of land, containing some 30,000 trees, a capital dwelling-house, with barracks for forty labourers, and a herd of draught oxen and flock of Creole sheep. The annual crop of something like one and a half million nuts is mostly shipped to this country, the kernels for conversion into sweetmeats, and, I believe, a portion of the fibre for manufacture into mats, brushes, ropes, and the numerous other purposes to which it is applied.

After a somewhat tedious journey by steamer, and a hot ride in the full blaze of the sun, the welcome entrance into this spacious grove of the “prince of palms” can only be likened to that afforded by an oasis of date palms to the parched traveller in the desert. Here I first tasted the transparent liquid contained in the nut, which might have been sweetened iced water, and ate of the cream

next the shell—both delicacies alike new to me, although familiar from childhood with the same as offered to the impartial schoolboy of the mother-country; for by the time they reach these shores, all the natural juice of the nut has become absorbed into the hard white substance lining the shell; so that should any suspicious quantity of liquid be found within its interior, the agency of man must be held responsible for its appearance there, the one eye of the nut which is not blind having opened to receive a “refresher” through its obliging portal. Toddy, or palm wine, is also obtained from the spathe, before the flowers have expanded, and is slightly stimulating, of delicious flavour, and a non-intoxicant. When boiled, it produces “jaggery,” or sugar; vinegar is also made from the same, while from the sour juice “rack” or “arrack” is distilled. The expressed juice of the flowers contains a powerful astringent tonic against debility.

Having duly inspected this magnificent *cocote*—the palms of which one noticed are curved at the base, though, after reaching about a third of their growth, they shoot up comparatively straight—we watched an expert negro pass a pliable branch of some easily bent wood round one of the trees, fasten it securely behind his back, and then, keeping his legs extended at right angles to and with feet flat against the stem, hitch himself up to the nuts above as fast as a man could walk on even ground; and on reaching the green tuft above, draw his cutlass, lopping off the ripe nuts, and descending again to the ground, in less time than it takes to write this account of his everyday exploit. On other estates, the nuts having been adroitly divided by one blow of the cutlass, the kernels are submitted to pressure, until all the oil, so valuable for purposes of machinery, is extracted, the exterior fibre being then and there converted to its numerous uses; but

here most of the fibre was utilized for the roads, and very soft but firm thoroughfares throughout the plantation were the result of this happy use of the discarded husks. Again, the coolies, with their bullock-carts collecting the nuts, and conveying them to the landing-stage for exportation in the English vessel then loading up a cargo for home, presented a very pleasing picture to the eye. In fact, I never enjoyed a more pleasant time; and in the evening, after dining with my hospitable host (Mr. Francois Agostini), the captain of the ship, his daughter, and a party of friends, and afterwards reclining on a hammock in the verandah, smoking an after-dinner cigar, and watching the fireflies dancing beneath the coco-nut palms, I felt how much many a satiated continental traveller would give for a peep at such beautiful visions of delight.

Coco-nuts are easily grown, it being sufficient to place them in rows on the ground set apart for a new plantation; though the more careful planters in Ceylon imbed them an inch deep in sand and seaweed in a nursery, not till after four months planting them when required. They should be watered and sheltered from the glare of the sun, and for two or three years carefully attended to. The tiny sprout inside feeds on the albumen so familiar to us all, and gradually bores its way out through the one eye of the three amenable to pressure; meanwhile tiny roots from the two other orifices are securing the parent nut to the ground, in order that so long as its albumen lasts it may cherish the young stem. After bursting from its prison-house, the young palm draws nourishment from the roots alone, and the empty and discarded husk soon is parted altogether from the stem it has so ably cherished.

In view of the steady increase in the use of coco-nut

oil for purposes of machinery, for which, from its stringy nature, it is so admirably suited, and of which we receive from Ceylon alone close upon two million gallons annually, as well as the large trade done in the materials manufactured from the exterior fibre of the nut, and the enormous consumption of the dessicated kernel in the form of countless varied confectioneries, to say nothing about the tons used every year in the time-honoured game of "Aunt Sally" (also an importation from the tropics), one is reasonably surprised at the small number of *cocals* planted in the West Indies. The truth would appear to be, that, through lack of proper care, whole plantations have been ravaged by the grub of the firefly or skip-jack, or the scale insect, or bacterium, or so-called blight, and planters have consequently desponded; but all vegetation is subject to the attacks of certain pests, and advancement in scientific knowledge enables man to successfully combat such destroyers. Again, there has been want of proper care in consigning the nuts to ourselves, improperly dried and damaged ones fermenting on the voyage, and often rendering useless the greater part of a cargo. Crops must not be left to take care of themselves; each tree should be periodically examined, and sacrificed, if necessary, for the welfare of the rest, while proper dressings should be applied to the apex of the bud leaves, in order to ward off the attacks of the pests alluded to above. In all parts of the globe, particularly the Pacific Islands, Java, Borneo, the countries near these, Singapore, New Guinea, West Africa, and much of South America, the production of the coco-nut has increased; the West Indies alone sending but a small quantity to Europe.

Lastly, but most important of all, in every island, the oil having been extracted, soap should be manufactured,

thereby obtaining that most valuable coco-nut meal and cake for cattle-feeding purposes, and that direct from the ripest, clean, sound kernels. This is one of the very best feeding materials in existence, and I state such from practical experience of its value. It is more palatable (because less dry) than that obtained from the small filbert-like kernels of the palm-nut of Africa, and is nourishing and flesh and muscle forming. It is a highly effective food for milch cows, for general fattening purposes, and for pigs. As a milk producer it is very effective, enriching the milk and increasing the yield of butter. The manner in which these two meals are used here in England may be of service to West Indians. It is well to begin in small quantities, so as to accustom the cattle to the taste of the meal, going on gradually to three or four pounds a day, lest it should be found that the milk or butter acquire any of its flavour. Cattle very soon become exceedingly fond of this food. For store animals the same quantity is given as to dairy cows; but for fattening beasts it is well not to exceed two pounds to begin with, mixing with barley meal, bean meal, or pulped roots and chaff, the quantity being gradually doubled as marketing time approaches. For calves, the best method is to begin by mixing a small quantity with their porridge; and for pigs, who fatten in the most marvellous manner on this meal, it should be mixed with a little bran or barley meal. However, a little practical experience is the best teacher, and very often this meal can be given alone, provided that green food of some sort or another is given once a day.

The extreme efficacy of coco-nut meal and cake lies not only in its fattening and milk-producing qualities, but in its health-giving properties; for all animals fed on this meal enjoy freedom from disease, and their coats,

skin, and general appearance testify to the benefit they derive from such feeding.

With regard to the manufacture of soaps from coconut oil and caustic soda, it is quite a simple and easy process, and learned from book. The plant required is inexpensive; thus this industry is open to any enterprising colonist with small capital. It is commonly done at Ceylon, the Malabar coast, and at Sydney and Melbourne. In connection with such could be started a factory for utilizing the outside fibre as matting, and for the making of ropes, brushes, etc., the refuse from which, after every conceivable use has been made of the fibre, is valuable as a mulching for garden plants, ferns, and, mixed with other manures, forms a valuable fertilizer.

In point of fact, this "prince of palms" of itself is sufficient to supply man and beast with all the necessities of life; and given a poor man a footing on an island destitute of vegetation save the coco-nut palm, and deducing his chances of life as compared with any ordinarily placed poor man at home, we find that the latter has not a leg to stand upon, his daily toil and labour scarce producing for him the coarsest of food and raiment, while he of the *cocals* has—

"Lantern, culinary implements, fire, house and bed,
Furniture, spoon, bowl from which he's fed,
Clothing, meat, trencher, drink and can,
Boat, cable, sail, mast, needle, all in one!"

VIII.

OTHER INDUSTRIES.

IN the pursuit of numerous enterprises lies the fact of other and younger colonies advancing in agriculture and commerce by leaps and bounds, whereas the West Indies, after trusting to and failing in their one great sugar industry, seem likely to repeat the error by taking cacao as their almost solitary venture on a large scale. The prosperity of a country depends on the development of many, not single industries, and to one brought up in the creed of "rotation of crops," it is indeed surprising to learn that sugar succeeds sugar year after year, and that no effort, save an intermediate crop of yams, is made to relieve the soil from the constant drain upon its resources caused by the constant abstraction of the same chemical properties. For it must be understood that the very best fertilizing manures cannot give heart to worn-out land.

I propose, with a view to encouraging other industries, to name those now being brought prominently forward, and others which may be new to many.

ANNATTO. (*Bixa Orellana*, L.)

From the seeds of this plant is made the well-known yellow and red dyes used for colouring silks, Gloucester cheese, Dutch butters and cheeses, chocolate, soups, and

other culinary matters, while Indians anoint their bodies with its crimson paste, for ornamentation and protection from insect bites. It prefers a cool, moist, shady situation by streams or dwellings. In forming a plantation, it is best to raise the plants in nurseries, till from six to eight inches high, and then transplant during the rainy season; but the seeds may be sown where required, and a judicious thinning out will secure the strongest plants being left in the ground. About two years is the time for the first yield of seed, the plant remaining fruitful for a long period. One thousand and forty-four labourers are employed on the forty-eight *roucou* (as it is there called) plantations of the French island of Guadaloupe. By first pounding and then pouring boiling water on the seeds, the dye settles at the bottom of the vessels used for the purpose, and being dried to a proper consistency, is, made into cakes or balls, which are subsequently dried hard and sent to market. But there are various ways of procuring the same. The value of the seed varies from 1½*d.* to 6*d.*, though 9*d.* has occasionally been obtained; while flag annatto fetches from 5*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.*, though preparations of re-rolled annatto are sold in London from 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 9*d.* per pound. Really good manufactured dye will always pay for the trouble, but consignments of seeds, especially mixed, are not to be recommended.

ARROWROOT. *See* St. Vincent.

BEN, OIL OF.

The origin of this wonderful oil, stated to be used exclusively by watch and clock makers, is uncertain. Its reputed properties are a constant liquidity, and freedom from becoming rancid or thick. The horse-radish tree

(*Moringa pterygosperma*) of the tropics is reported to furnish such, but present samples have proved unsatisfactory, owing to the presence of stearine, which should be removed. Plants of the *Moringa aptera*, another species of the genus *Moringa*, are now being raised in the West Indies; and should any enterprising colonist succeed in extracting a *bona-fide* sample of oil of ben from either of these sources, it could not fail to result in most remunerative business.

CAKE AND MEAL, OIL AND SOAP. *Vide* COCO-NUTS and LOCUST BEAN.

COFFEE. (*Coffea arabica*, L.)

I do not propose entering into any detailed account of this industry, for its cultivation is well understood in the Antilles; suffice it to say that East Indian produce having fallen off some one and a quarter million hundred-weights, should be an inducement for West Indians to persevere in its more extended cultivation. Want of success hitherto seems owing to lack of shade in low districts for the young trees, though mostly from a difficulty in properly preparing the beans for market; the former evil is capable of local reformation, while the latter need no longer exercise the minds of growers.

Coffee may now be consigned in the parchment to London, where a few factories have been for some time engaged in "milling" or "husking" the same in a clean and expeditious manner. Notable are those owned by Messrs. Major and Field, of Red Lion and Three Cranes Wharf, Upper Thames Street, E.C., and Messrs. Anderson, Weber, and Smith, of the Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, S.E.

The coffee must be pulped and the cherry got rid of on the plantation, but the parchment, if dry, protects the bean from atmospheric and other influences likely to affect it during transit, at the same time affording more time for it to mature. The operation of thoroughly drying is perhaps the most important of all, extreme care being taken that the parchment is in a state fit to be "husked" there and then, just as if the operation were about to be undertaken by the producer; otherwise there will be increased loss in the weight, extra charges will occur, and the coffee, after drying and "husking" over here, will be more or less musty, and deteriorate in its market value.

Last year, 86s. per hundred-weight was obtained for beans "milled" here, which, as at present prepared by most West Indian planters, would not command over 53s. per hundred-weight, and probably very much less. The nominal cost of milling is from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 9d. per hundred-weight, so that growers would be more than compensated for loss in weight, extra freight, etc., by adopting this plan, besides being able to obtain advances on their shipments, and have more time to devote to the other crops on their plantations. For the best Arabian coffee, such as produced in Jamaica, and consigned here in the parchment, no less than 105s. per hundred-weight has been the price obtained after "milling," and that early this year (1889).

Liberian coffee of the very best quality, and thoroughly well prepared, has been valued at about 75s. per hundred-weight, but it is seldom that so high a price is obtained; and if consigned in the parchment, the out-turn after cleaning will not at present give satisfactory results.

CUBEB PEPPER. (*Piper cubeba*, L.)

This is an industry that should be taken up at once in the West Indies, for the supplies of cubebbs are insufficient to meet the demand, and the present price (about £13 nominally per hundred-weight) ensures for those who start plantations good remuneration for their trouble. It is a climbing shrub, like other peppers, requires shade when growing, and, after climbing some twenty feet, forms a large bush. The fruit is gathered before quite ripe, and dried with the stalk attached; hence its name, "tailed pepper." These cubebbs are used medicinally, and for asthma cigarettes. The price in 1886 was actually from £20 to £22 per hundred-weight, but that quoted above is the average one.

CUSH-CUSH AND TANIA.

These are two special crops, in the further and regular cultivation of which I am extremely interested—the one the cush-cush, and the other the common but useful tania. When in the West Indies, I wrote to the English papers with regard to the introduction of one or both into this country; and although time and opportunity did not allow of my making the experiment, I am still hopeful that, even should our temperate climate prove unfavourable to their culture, some enterprising colonist will persuade us to buy bags of cush-cush and tania, as we do potatoes from other countries. My opinion of both is, that when well cooked they are both succulent and mealy, and I see no reason why we should not consume large quantities over here in the United Kingdom. That they are rough and unpalatable, and unable to be eaten without butter and what not, is a mistaken opinion, engendered

by the wasteful and luxurious habits of pampered Creoles ; a modicum of salt being sufficient.

Of one fact I am assured : in time of potato famine in Ireland, or scarcity in other parts, these two roots, so nearly akin to the staple vegetable, would be indeed welcome. The taste and subsequent relish for them would soon come, and, considering the ease with which they are grown in the West Indies, the exported price should be cheaper than that paid for foreign potatoes.

It is almost unnecessary to add that the cultivation of both these edibles, at present insufficient even to meet local demands, must be increased a hundred-fold before such an experiment could be tried.

ENSILAGE.

It is truly pitiable in the dry season to note the miserable lean cattle gradually starving to death for want of pasture, and I make bold to state that, even in the West Indies, where the dry and bare savannahs afford no nourishment whatever after a certain season of the year, this deplorable state of affairs can be obviated.

The remedy is to make ensilage when all things are green and succulent, not only of grass, but of every green thing that is edible for cattle, such as cabbage leaves, the tops of vegetables, plantain leaves, tops of sugar-canes, green maize, and other sorghum and what not, and put grass and all together in a silo. Then, by using sufficient pressure, adverse climatic effects can be guarded against ; for it is an indisputable fact that ensilage properly siloed is impervious to either heat or cold. Here, then, would be ample food, supplemented by coco-nut meal and cake, to keep the beasts alive during the dry season ; and, further, if the climate allows of growing swedes under

shade (and why not? for an English summer is often as hot as in the West Indies, and yet swedes grow and flourish), cattle could be fattened more expeditiously than during the wet season.

FIBRES (BAMBOO, BANANA, PLANTAIN, PINE-APPLE).

Bamboo.

Mr. Froude relates of an American, whom he met in Jamaica, perceiving that there were "dollars in the bamboo," and for bamboos there was no place in the world like the West Indies. He states: "He bought machines to clear the fibre, tried to make ropes of it, to make canvas, paper, and I know not what. I think he told me that he had spent a quarter of a million dollars instead of finding any, before he hit upon a paying use for it. The bamboo fibre has certain elastic, incompressible properties in which it is without a rival. He forms it into 'packing' for the boxes of the wheels of railway carriages, where it holds oil like a sponge, never hardens, and never wears out. He sends the packing over the world, and the demand grows as it is tried."

Banana and Plantain. (Musa sapientum.)

From an ordinary stem of the banana, cut after fruiting about two feet from the ground, denuded of foliage, divided lengthways and split into segments, the settler can easily prepare a pound and a half of clean fibre; and if the whole stem and leaf branches be pounded, the yield would be from two and a half to three pounds. The fibre obtainable from a "red banana" of Trinidad, if properly prepared and of a bright colour, like that of Manila hemp, should command from £24 to £25 per ton in the London market.

From seven to nine ounces of clean fibre is obtainable from the stem of a plantain after fruition, and is of better quality than that of the ordinary banana.

It is recommended that, in case of the fibres of these two plants being ultimately proved unable to compete with the various hems, they (the plantain especially) should be utilized for paper-making, and delivered in Europe at a cost not exceeding from £2 to £3 per ton; and would very probably fetch from £3 to £5 per ton, according to quality.

Pine-apple. (Bromelia sylvestris.)

The fibre obtainable from the leaves of this wild pine-apple is finer and stronger than that yielded by any other plant, and although not yet in commercial use, will probably in the future command from £30 per ton and upwards. It is recommended that some compressed bales of roughly dried leaves be forwarded to England for experimental purposes.

At present it is used in the Philippine Islands for the manufacture of a beautiful fabric called "pina cloth," and for ropes of unusual durability.

FRUITS AND PRESERVES.

That this industry is at present in its infancy, and only awaits the stimulus of actual promised trade with Great Britain and the Continent, as well as regular and reliable means of shipping thither, we are well assured. Bananas and pine-apples have been largely exported both to Europe and America, and the trade is on the increase; also oranges have somewhat recently been successfully landed in England, but the latter to no great extent;

and these should not alone represent the varied and delicious fruits of the West Indies.

The fruit trade in these colonies is now of the estimated value of £750,000, and it is a matter of fact that the great majority of these delicacies can be shipped over here in a fresh state; and especially during the winter and spring months, such an acquisition of fresh fruit should prove highly acceptable to the home market. Ignorance and prejudice have first to be overcome, for we are slow in accustoming ourselves to partake of new foods, and not one in a thousand would know how properly to eat, much less to cook, any of these fruits. A printed book of instructions on this head would do much in helping to develop a taste for and consequent trade in many such.

With preserves it is different, for the risk of loss on exportation is sensibly diminished; in fact, guava and mango jellies, and a few tamarinds and pine-apples in syrup, are already sent to us from the West Indies.

Subjoined is a list of the principal fruits and preserves, most of which could be forwarded to this country, were cool chambers regularly provided on board ship for the former, and the latter manufactured *sufficiently low in price to enable them to compete with our home-made jams.*

Fruits.	Local Prices.	Remarks.
Akee	4s. per 100.	Rare.
Almond, Java ..		Flavour like filbert.
Apple, Bell ..		Rare.
" Custard ..		Juice often made into a drink.
" Golden, or Pomme Cythère		Much esteemed.
" Malay ..	2s. per 100. 1s. 6d. to 6s. per doz.	Rare.
" Mammee ..		Flavour like apricot.
" Pine ..		Juice and fruit in syrup imported.

Fruits.	Local Prices.	Remarks.
Apple, Rose.. ..	2s. per 100.	Flavour like rose-water.
" Star		Rare.
" Sugar		Juice often made into a drink.
Balata	6d. per bunch, to 1s. 6d. per 100.	Of pleasant taste, size of damson.
Banana		Largely exported.
Baobab		Recently imported.
Bread-fruit	1s. 6d. per 100.	Much esteemed as a vegetable.
Carambo		Recently imported.
Cherry, Barbados		Not much eaten fresh.
" Surinam		Rare.
Citron		Rind preserved in brine; could be exported.
Date		Rare, but grows well.
Durian		Recently imported.
Fig		Always in season.
Forbidden Fruit, or Pomelo		Could be exported largely.
Fraisé, or Redberry		Eaten with cream, like strawberries.
Genip	3d. to 6d. each.	Rare.
Gooseberry, Barbados		Rare.
" Otaheite		Not much eaten fresh.
Granadilla	3s. 6d. per 100.	Common, but not lasting.
Grape		Large green.
" Fruit		Pretty plentiful.
" Seaside	3d. to 6d. per 100.	Sometimes steeped in rum, like cherries in brandy.
Guava		Very common.
" Purple		Superior in flavour to common guava.
Jack-fruit	1s. 4d. to 2s. per 100.	Seeds eaten like bread-nuts.
Lemon		Coarse rind, from which an essential oil is obtained.
" Water		Excellent, and lasts well.
Limes	3d. to 4d. per 100.	The juice largely exported.
Loquat		Recently imported.
Mango		The most favourite and luscious fruit.
Mangosteen	4d. to 1s. 4d. per 100.	Recently imported.
Melon, Musk		Rare.
" Water		Thrives well, could be increased.
Nuts, Bread	5s. per 100 lbs.	Eaten like chestnuts, used also for stuffing poultry.
" Candle		An oily nut, pleasant to the taste, and useful for candles.

Fruits.	Local Prices.	Remarks.
Nuts, Cashew ..	8s. per 100 lbs.	Has two fruits; the juice of the apple can be made into wine, and the nuts are roasted.
„ Ground ..	3s. 6d. per 100.	Used for a spurious "olive oil."
Nutmeg		Plentiful.
Orange, Mandarin ..	10d. to 1s. per 100.	Plentiful, and very fine.
„ Seville ..	10d. to 1s. per 100.	Essential oil and druggists' rind obtained from this variety.
„ Sweet Lime ..		Small, but of exquisite flavour.
„ Tangerine ..	10d. to 1s. per 100.	Excellent fruit.
Papaw		A digestive fruit in great estimation.
Plantain	6d. to 1s. per 100.	Very common and exported.
Plum, Boni or Damson ..		Bare.
„ Chili		Grown in certain localities.
„ Governor		Bare.
„ Hog or Yellow ..		Not so good as the purple.
„ Jamaica or Purple ..		Common, of excellent quality.
„ Java		Not very plentiful.
Pomegranate ..	3s. per 100.	Plentiful.
Prickly Pear ..		Plenty for exportation.
Sapodilla	1s. to 2s. 6d. per 100.	Much esteemed; has been successfully exported fresh to London.
Shaddock	3d. to 5d. each, to 12s. per 100.	Of red and white pulp. A favourite fruit, now regularly exported to Europe.
Sop, Sweet		Plentiful in certain localities.
„ Sour	6s. per 100.	Juice often made into a drink.
Sorrel		Used for tarts and pies, and as a drink.
Strawberry		Scarce, but could be cultivated.
Tamarind	2s. 6d. per 100 lbs., to 4s. to 16s. per tree crop.	Largely exported, preserved in syrup, or packed in barrels with molasses.
Tomato		Grown in small quantities.
Zicack		Pulp resembles fat pork; not much esteemed.

Although the Direct Line has at present given up the conveyance of fresh fruit, owing to the difficulty of

finding a market for the same, yet the Royal Mail have recently fitted up two of their Atlantic liners with "cool chambers" for the better exportation of fruit from our West Indian colonies, and I have no doubt that, were a market guaranteed in Liverpool, the West India and Pacific Steamship Company would do likewise. Care must be taken that all fruit is picked with the stalk, that no rough handling be permitted, that the slightest bruise be sufficient to reject the finest fruit, and that the whole be properly and securely packed; while precaution must be taken that the fruit is not frozen, otherwise it turns a bad colour and is useless; the proper temperature for a cool chamber being about 45° Fahrenheit.

Preserves (the prices are for large quantities).

Preserves.	Local Prices.	Remarks.
Apple, Golden ..	8d. per lb.	Very plentiful.
Bread-fruit Blossom ..	" "	Candied like lemon-peel.
Cherry, Barbados ..	1s. 3d. "	Candied with sugar.
Citron	" "	Candied peel.
Figs	8d. "	Plentiful.
Fraisè, or Redberry ..	" "	Made into jam.
Ginger	1s. 3d. per lb.	In small quantities.
Gooseberry, Barbados ..	8d. "	Excellent jam.
Guanadilla	1s. 3d. "	Very plentiful.
Guava	8d. "	Excellent jelly and jam.
Lemon	" "	Candied peel.
Maimèe Sopote	" "	Like apricot jam.
Mango	8d. per lb.	Excellent jelly and jam.
Nutmeg (pulp)	1s. 3d. "	Plentiful.
Orange, Seville	8d. "	Plentiful for marmalade.
Papaw	" "	A favourite preserve.
Pine-apple	" "	Plentiful.
Plum, Purple	" "	Excellent quality.
Plumrose (white)	" "	In small quantities.
Sapodilla	" "	Very luscious.
Shaddock (pith)	8d. per lb.	Excellent and plentiful.
Sorrel	" "	A favourite preserve.
Strawberry	" "	Scarce.
Tamarind	1s. 3d. per lb.	Very plentiful.
Tomato	" "	In small quantities.

A glance at the above prices, as quoted for large orders, at once debars them from competition with jams in the home market. To take a single preserve, the fruit of which is one of the very commonest in the West Indies, the guava, a delicacy highly esteemed by Europeans, but entirely prohibitive as to price. Whilst in the West Indies, my attention was directed to its manufacture, and I was induced to communicate with our principal home merchants, with this result—that colonial manufacturers, if content with small profits, could reap a good harvest; that people cannot or will not pay fancy prices for delicacies; but that if guava and mango jellies could be sold in England at from sixpence to eightpence per pound, a sale would in time be effected, while other preserves should be quoted at a lower price. I am afraid that any sale of marmalade cannot be entertained, owing to the exceedingly low price (threepence to fivepence per pound) in the European markets.

In concluding these particulars concerning West Indian fruit and preserves, I would suggest that each port from which fresh fruit is to be shipped should be provided with a cool storehouse, kept to a certain temperature by a refrigerator, such as manufactured by Messrs. Haslam and Co., so that the fruit might be gathered with safety shortly before the steamer's arrival, while in case of its being behind time, the plucked fruit would be safe from harm, and ready to be shipped at a moment's notice. Further, it seems to me that the exportation of preserves can only be successfully carried out by the establishment of central "jam usines" (if I may be allowed the expression), to which small and large growers of fruit could bring their produce, receiving ready-money payments for the same. The boon that the establishment of such a factory would confer upon the locality selected could not

fail to be thoroughly appreciated, conferring as it would a twofold benefit, firstly upon the grower, and, secondly, on the workpeople it would employ.

GUINEA AND PARA GRASSES.

The planting of these grasses should be more rigorously pushed forward, so as to ensure constant pasturage for cattle. Their respective merits are so well known that it would be superfluous to enter into any description of the same; suffice it that, both fresh and as ensilage, these grasses are invaluable for stock in the tropics, and no crops pay better.

HEMPS (SISAL, MAURITIUS, MANILA).

Sisal.

Considering that the agave plant, yielding Sisal hemp, flourishes in so arid and dried-up a district as Yucatan, and that the fibre is there prepared by native labour for the home markets, thus showing that no great skill is required either in its cultivation or preparation, it can confidently be recommended to any West Indian colony where the soil is poor and directly under the full blaze of the sun. The waste land of Barbados and Antigua is well adapted for this enterprise, being generally flat and unsuitable for many industries undertaken by the other islands.

Mr. Morris remarks thus on this matter: "Nothing is required but to import plants from Yucatan sufficient to establish about five hundred acres, and leave them on the land for five or six years, when they would be fit for cutting. Machines have been regularly used in Yucatan, which are known to be effective in producing a marketable

fibre. There is nothing speculative or uncertain about the industry. The profits are small, but so are the risks. A small labour supply only is necessary, and the soil to grow the agave plants need only be hot and poor."

The plants are set twelve feet by six feet, and when from four to five years old, they begin to yield, and may last fifty to sixty years if care be taken; the flower stalk, as soon as four feet high, is cut off, and it is by thus preventing flowering that the plant is kept so long alive.

The price in 1885 was £38 per ton, or say fourpence per pound of fibre, and then, with four hundred plants to the acre, each yielding one pound of clean marketable fibre worth fourpence, after deducting one penny per pound for labour, the net profit should be exactly £5 per acre. Last year the price per ton was only £27, while this year (1889) it is as high as £50; so, like any other commodity, it is liable to fluctuation.

Mauritius.

Mauritius hemp may be grown at a higher elevation than the former, but does equally well on the lowlands and abandoned sugar estates. It appears to command about £1 more per ton than Sisal hemp.

Manila.

Manila hemp is the most important and valuable of these fibres, and is obtained from the banana or plantain, called botanically *Musa textilis*. It requires a rich volcanic soil, with much heat and a heavy rainfall.

It is grown similarly to the ordinary banana, is planted from eight to nine feet apart when three feet high, and yields after four years from four hundred to seven hundred pounds of dry hemp to the acre. A considerable price per ton can always be obtained.

ISINGLASS.

The quality of this, as consigned from the West Indies, is good, but the quantity small, while Brazil exports largely. If the sturgeon or any other of the fresh-water fish whose air-bladders supply isinglass are to be found in any numbers, it is a pity that a larger amount of the sound is not sent over here; for this is always a dear commodity, so much so, in fact, that inferior gelatines have come to be largely used in its place.

KOLA-NUTS.

There is no plant that has a better future before it than this, and buyers are now looking to the West Indies for their supplies; for the kola-nuts obtained from West Africa can never be relied upon, the natives sending small shrivelled-up nuts, and very often freely mixed with spurious ones.*

Messrs. Thos. Christy and Co., of 25, Lime Street, London, E.C., the manufacturers of kola chocolate and kolatina or kola paste, have given out orders for all they can obtain of the West Indian nuts, and they speak most hopefully of the future of this industry. It is true that small lots of these nuts are to be found in the islands; but the proper cultivation of the same must be considerably increased if required to pay commercially. Very large quantities of these nuts are also sold for both medicinal and chemical purposes.

LIMES. *See* Montserrat.

LOCUST BEAN. (*Hymenæa Courbaril*, L.)

Here, again, is a fattening, milk-increasing product, which should be grown extensively and in a systematic

* Growers in the West Indies who fail to find a remunerative market, should take notice of the absolute necessity for good samples.

manner, and thus help largely in augmenting better-class foods for cattle in the various islands. So extremely fond of this sweet pod and its beans are stock of all kinds, that they will follow any person showing them one, and endeavour in every way to obtain it. I am sure it is no picture of imagination in stating that during the dry season numbers of starving cattle, turned out by their small proprietors on the public savannahs, may frequently be seen beneath these trees, eyeing as it were with famished glance each wavering pod, and one and all hopeful, no doubt, of proving the favoured recipient of its saccharine contents in the veritable scramble following its fall to the ground.

It is an open secret that locust meal* is an important constituent in more than one of the best-known cattle foods of the day, and why it has not hitherto been systematically cultivated is one of the many mysteries connected with agricultural pursuits, as followed in our West Indian colonies, to which there is no satisfactory explanation. From experience with the palm-oil nut and coco-nut meals as stock and pig foods, I can safely affirm that if a cake were to be manufactured containing, say, *two-thirds coco-nut to one-third locust meal*, it would possess such fattening, milk-producing, and health-giving qualities that a most profitable European market would be open for it, while as a specially suitable food for cattle in the tropics it could find no equal.

Some stock find a difficulty in taking to the nut meals, pure and simple, owing to the peculiar flavour and general dusty nature of the food which, by a judicious blending with the locust meal, thus be obviated.

* Not hitherto from the West Indian bean, but from that grown south of Europe, which is very similar. The guango and carob are however used in these preparations.

In fact, here is an industry capable of a varied development, for valuable saccharine might no doubt be first obtained from these pods, leaving sufficient in the refuse to form a sweet meal, while the gum-resin from the tree itself, which is closely allied to gum anime, is used as a copal for varnishes.

Thus this neglected locust-tree would appear a true source of wealth to the enterprising colonist who would plant a grove of such, and in due time make use of its valuable productions. Much could at present be collected from the trees in their wild state, and used in the manner indicated above, but a systematic cultivation only could produce profitable results.

MAIZE (INDIAN CORN).

This is so well known a cereal in the West Indies, that a very few words will suffice with regard to its further development. It has been already suggested that, where cattle are kept, this crop could be advantageously eaten off green, being a most nutritious and valuable pasture, and a good pioneer for other crops; but as corn, and considering the great quantities actually imported into the West Indies, and the very extensive market there is for it in the United Kingdom alone, it would pay handsomely to be grown to almost any extent. Then, again, the meal combined with others presents another excellent cattle food. Other sorghum could equally well be cultivated.

MEDICINAL PLANTS, HERBS, AND ESSENTIAL OILS.

I am not aware of the above being made a special object of industry in the West Indies, but we buy very

large quantities from other countries; and those requiring a tropical climate could, of course, be equally well grown in these islands as elsewhere. There are a few medicinal herb-growers in England, who, by cultivating many varieties, and extracting essential oils on the spot, make a good profit; but they do not trust to a single plant, making sure of success by having several "irons in the fire." Let us notice some of the varieties capable of production in the West Indies, in the hope that some settlers may "go in" strongly for medicinal plantations of many kinds.

Cuoa. (Coca.)

Several varieties of this powerful anæsthetic and pain-deadener are to be found in the Lesser Antilles, viz. *Erythroxylon obvatum* in St. Vincent, *E. obtusum* in Trinidad, *E. squamutum* in St. Lucia, *E. ovatum* in Trinidad and Dominica; and as the drug cucaïne (cocaine) commands a good price in the market, though liable to fluctuations, a large plantation of the commercial variety ought to repay the cultivation.

Henbane and Belladonna.

These are both grown to a small extent in England; but, owing to a variable climate and other unfavourable causes, the supply is inadequate to the demand, both drugs commanding a very high price. Having been interested for some time in both receiving and imparting information concerning the growth of such, perhaps a few remarks on the same will prove serviceable to others. Henbane, the biennial plant being the proper one for cultivation, requires a fine well-prepared soil, and the seed should be drilled in similarly to carrot sowing. It is not a quick grower, consequently mustard seeds are

sometimes mixed with it to mark where it is sown; it also requires shelter when young. By sowing in rows between beans such shelter is afforded, and a good crop of the former may be obtained, whilst the henbane is growing. Care must be taken that the plants are kept free from weeds, and judiciously thinned. Here the seed is sown about May or June, and the plants are collected for drying towards the end of the June following. Some growers consign the whole crop green to local wholesale druggists, and receive at the rate of £30 a waggon-load; but it is in its dry and more valuable state that West Indian growers would have to turn their attention. From seven shillings upwards is the price per pound (dry) of this increasingly used herb.

I should think it highly probable that, in the West Indies, henbane could be both sown and harvested the same year. The upper leaves are deprived of the midrib, and these, as well as the flowering tops, are dried, and form the best biennial henbane of commerce. The lower leaves and stems are used for preparing extract, for which purpose they are crushed under an edge-runner and the juice squeezed out by hydraulic pressure, and then evaporated down to a proper consistence. To dry the upper leaves and flowering tops, growers here have recourse to malt-kilns, thin layers being spread on the floors, and turned over about three times a day, the whole being thoroughly dried in about three days; but in the tropics, a small four-sided erection, with a sliding roof to guard against wet and to close in at night, would probably be sufficient, the sun effecting a complete drying in half the time.

Belladonna being perennial, the plants are raised from seed, and grown on the same ground from seven to ten years, when they are replaced by fresh ones.

Like henbane, the crop is not cut the first year, though growth in the tropics would probably engender distinct conditions, but in the middle of June the second year, and again at the end of September. Two feet is the ordinary height, and although larger plants may be reared, the medicinal properties contained in such are less powerful in proportion. This is somewhat analogous to the cinchona trees, in which, as a rule, the smaller the leaves the larger the yield of alkaloid. About five pounds of extract are obtained from one hundred-weight of belladonna.

Quinine. (Cinchona.)

This tree, so highly and extensively cultivated since, by virtue of its bark, Cinchon, vice-queen of Peru, was cured of her malady, and thus for all time imparted her own royal name to the tonic, has shown its aptitude for growth in the highlands of the West Indies by its vigorous increase in Jamaica under the fostering care of Mr. Morris, late Director of the Botanical Gardens, and his instructions as to its proper cultivation are so well known that further reference is unnecessary. Although liable to fluctuation in price, like every conceivable commodity, quinine can always be reckoned on as a staple drug.

Papaw. (Carica Papaya.)

The traveller to the West Indies never wearies of dilating upon the wonderful effects produced upon the very toughest of tropical beef-steaks by the expression of a few drops of papaw juice on its viscous superficies. Dr. Nicholls, of Dominica, writes: "It is very pleasant to the taste, and it acts as a digestive, owing to the principle papain which it contains. The half-ripe fruits, on being

scratched, yield a milky juice, which, when dried, is the drug papayotin, from which papain is obtained." This excellent and potent drug has been selling at the rate of 4s. 6d. per tube of sixteen grains, or about 3½d. per grain, and as this period of the nineteenth century has produced a plethora of dyspeptic individuals, who seem likely to be succeeded by similar generations, West Indians should grow this tree on a very much larger scale, and so help to keep us all in good health and spirits; for of all unhappy and unsociable persons, the one suffering from chronic indigestion is the most pitiable.

Pomegranate. (Punica Granatum.)

The writer quoted above remarks of the pomegranate, "The rind is much used locally to make a decoction, which is deservedly esteemed as a valuable remedy in chronic diarrhoea and dysentery;" so there is probably a future for this plant.

ESSENTIAL OILS.

Such can be obtained from the rinds of oranges, lemons, and limes; the Seville orange furnishing, besides its oil, the orange-peel of druggists, and it is the *Auranti cortex* of the British Pharmacopœia.

Space will not permit of my going further into this matter. Sarsaparilla and other rarer extracts can be obtained from plants now growing wild in the West Indies; and if settlers would only start plantations of a dozen different medicinal plants, like the few herb-growers in this country, they could not fail, from one or other, of obtaining substantial results.

PICKLES.

West Indian pickles are comparatively unknown to the great majority of the British public, and great buyers of Indian and other kinds have asked me for information on this point, and as to where such could be obtained. In starting a new industry like this, system would be required, a superior quality would have to be turned out, and the price placed on an equality with that ruling the home market. Equally with preserves, no fancy price would be entertained over here, from 10*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a bottle being considered enough for the best.

PIMENTO.

In common with cinchona, this has been fully dilated upon by Mr. Morris, and its cultivation is well understood and extensively carried on.

RAMIE, OR CHINA GRASS. (*Boehmeria nivea*,
var. *tenacissima*.)

China grass is really a nettle. In the *Kew Bulletin* for June, 1888, its cultivation is thus described: "The fibre yielded by these plants has been long recognized as pre-eminent amongst vegetable fibres for strength, fineness, and lustre. Hence numerous attempts have been made to cultivate them, and to prepare the fibre in large quantities for commercial purposes. The plants are exceedingly easy of cultivation, and thrive in all soils, but preference should be given to those of a light loamy character. It is essential that the climate be moist and stimulating, in order to produce abundant and frequent crops of stems. The plants may be raised from seed, but

the more ready method is by root or stem cuttings. The roots being perennial, the stools become stronger and more vigorous every year, and from these fresh sets are easily obtained for extending the cultivation."

It appears that the great obstacle to the production of this fibre lies in the difficulty experienced in removing the gummy matter in which the individual fibres are imbedded, and that, this once overcome, the industry would in time prove a successful one. Many attempts have been and are still being made to overcome this difficulty, each attended with more or less success, and somewhat recently well-prepared fibre has been produced by a "patent scutching machine, for cleaning ramie, flax, hemp, etc.," placed on view at the late Irish Exhibition. But until spinning-machinery, different to that at present in use for obtaining the threads from cotton and flax, be erected in the factories, there can be no remunerative market for ramie fibre. Moreover, a market will never be opened until such can be obtained in large and frequent consignments, not merely in small and irregular quantities, as at present, and at a price below £30 per ton; then probably we may expect factories to be started for specially dealing with the same.

It behoves all scientific men residing in our West Indian colonies, to endeavour by experiment to free the fibre from its gum, and then to turn it out expeditiously and with the minimum of labour; and they should not be disheartened by learning that even a reward of £5000 offered by the Government of India for this very purpose had ultimately to be withdrawn, owing to unsatisfactory results from the several trials made; prizes recently offered by the French Government sharing a similar fate.

SPICES.

Having under Grenada already alluded to an extension of this, one of the oldest and most profitable industries of the West Indies, I have only to add that, from recent intercourse with City brokers, spices of high quality are more than ever in demand, in consequence of the numerous bad and spurious samples so often consigned to this country. It is the same old story: carelessness and inattention in picking and sorting; samples full of stalks; large and small, ripe and unripe, good and bad, all mixed up together to produce a bulk. West Indians of the future will do well to remember that the successful cultivation of any product is not sufficient of itself to insure a commercial value for its fruit, but that superadded must be extreme care in picking, preparing for market, and packing for transhipment to the United Kingdom. Wherefore the moral of the whole matter lies in the words, "Good samples."

TEA.

This industry has also been mentioned under St. Vincent and Dominica, the two islands of the Lesser Antilles best suited for its cultivation, requiring as it does a high elevation; and in view of the good name that grown in Jamaica is steadily getting in the English market, one cannot but hope that it will be found profitable to cultivate *black* tea in both of these colonies.

TIMBER.

This is, one may justly remark, a totally undeveloped industry, and yet of all the most valuable. It is, of

course, highly necessary to preserve forest lands in tropical countries, in order, as Mr. Morris remarks, "to maintain due humidity of climate and to protect the sources of springs and rivers;" but a few saw-mills established in the high woods to deal with trees already come to maturity, and thus allow more air and light to come in upon those struggling for existence, could not fail to benefit both the sawyer and the young forest. A recent writer states as follows:—"Trinidad might, if it chose, be almost independent of either cocoa or cane, seeing that it possesses noble forests of valuable hard woods, which the people are too lazy to fell for the market, and, if they did, would be too lazy to replace by a judicious system of planting, as carried out by the Forest Department in India."

What truth lies in this latter assertion is best known to Trinidadians themselves; but there is no doubt that the timber trade in Trinidad, Tobago, St. Lucia, and Dominica is as yet a source of unexplored wealth and deserves attention. On the other hand, no "squatting" on forest lands should ever be permitted by Government, as such entails a shameful waste of that which is most valuable. Of course, if plantations have to be extended, the virgin forest must be encroached upon, for plantations serve to introduce other trees equally valuable for the purposes indicated above. At the same time, there is ample room for the establishment of saw-mills, both to prevent waste and decay of mature timber, and to attract new settlers, like those engaged in the timber trade in British Columbia, to develop this most valuable of West Indian industries. It is almost superfluous to add that "a judicious system of planting" should replace the fallen monarchs of the forest.

TOBACCO.

It is strange that tobacco and cotton, the parent industries of the West Indies, should have so failed in yielding profitable results, but competition with that equally well produced in other countries has seemed for a time to have completely paralyzed both these industries. However, this is an age of resuscitation, and for the skillful cultivation of tobacco, at all events, a most promising future is gradually opening out. Samples of this leaf recently sent over from Trinidad,—where, thanks to the initiative of the present Governor, an expert from Cuba has been instructing the colonists in the scientific cultivation of tobacco—have been quoted at a high figure, some judges going so far as to assert that the quality of such was equal to the best Cuban. This is highly satisfactory, and will encourage other islands to set about a similar scientific—not haphazard—cultivation of the same. My experience of the majority of cigars I found actually put together in the Lesser Antilles, was that the leaf was imperfectly dried, and that the cigar itself was wanting in consistency, being too often flabby and unpalatable; and this can only be remedied by special instruction in the manufacture, by properly qualified experts.

VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS.

Notwithstanding the numerous varieties of the above indigenous to the soil, the former valuable as food and the latter as visions of delight to its inhabitants, still there are many kinds of British vegetables and flowers which are dear to the heart of the settler, and which he would be only too thankful to grow, were he assured, by those competent of judging, that such would flourish in

his new home. Of this he need have no doubt, and he may further rest assured that a carefully cultivated kitchen garden of mixed home and foreign vegetables will always pay him handsomely.

In respect to gardening operations it is most necessary to obtain seeds of the best quality, and generally those procurable on the spot are far from answering this requirement. By sending to Messrs. Sutton and Sons, Reading, England, buyers will get what they aim at, in pure new seeds of vegetables and flowers adapted for the West Indian climate, with full information as to sowing and treatment. The firm of Sutton and Sons is known throughout the world for the superior quality of their seeds, and I would draw special attention to the very reasonable prices at which such can be obtained.

I do not propose enumerating the native vegetables, for, besides being well known, they are so extensively cultivated that the intending settler will have no difficulty in making his selections.

WHEAT AND OTHER CEREALS.

I believe it is considered practically impossible to produce either wheat, oats, or barley in the tropics; yet, if we are to believe what Daniel Defoe informs us as to the capabilities of Tobago for producing barley, if sown just before the rainy season, it would be extremely interesting if some settler would make the experiment on a small scale on some of the uplands of the islands, and in soil suited for the purpose. Thus writes Daniel Defoe: "I found a little bag, which had been filled with corn for feeding poultry on the voyage, but what little remainder there might have been was all devoured by the rats. I shook the husks of corn out on one side of my fortification

under the rock. It was a little before the great rains, and about a month after I saw some stalks of something green shooting up, and was surprised and perfectly astonished when, after a little longer time, I saw ten or twelve ears come out, which were perfect green barley, the same as English barley; and there growing in a *climate which was not proper for corn*. . . . As I was sowing, it casually occurred to my thoughts that I would not sow it all at first; it was well that I did so, for not one grain that I sowed this time came to anything; for the dry months following, the earth having had no rain after the seed was sown, had no moisture to assist its growth, and it never came up till the wet season came again, and then it grew as if it had been but newly sown.*

With regard to maize, Guinea corn, and rice, the former has been previously alluded to, while the latter are to a certain degree staple productions of the West Indies, and their method of cultivation thoroughly understood; the only fault being that there is not nearly sufficient of either produced to meet the increasing wants of the people.

The whole matter of industries resolves itself into this—that the future prosperity of these colonies necessitates a variety of new enterprises, both as regards crops and manufactures. To quote a recent writer, who has endeavoured to point out the deficiencies of the islands: “Here we have the spectacle of an indolent population subsisting for the most part without labour; a state of

* It must be borne in mind that Daniel Defoe and Alexander Selkirk were contemporaneous personages, and that the former based his popular narrative of Robinson Crusoe's doings in the lovely island on the actual details of Selkirk's involuntary banishment, to whose diary he probably had access; so that a substantial substratum of fact runs through the whole story.

things quite dissonant from the accepted view, that the moral and social welfare of a country depends almost entirely on the industrial capacity of its people." Let me then urge the inhabitants of these highly favoured islands to free themselves from such a reproach; and by fitting many strings to their bows, each one will find which is the most serviceable, and thus, by the adoption of many and varied industries, will both forward the prosperity of their beloved country, and increase the commerce of the world at large.

IX.

THE COLOURED RACES.

THERE are no natives proper in the Lesser Antilles, the yellow Caribs having long since "been done to death" by the Europeans generally; for the few now bearing the name of such can hardly be called true descendants of the former aborigines. The negro therefore claims primary attention. Originally imported as slaves, and then suddenly freed by the Emancipation Act of 1832, these people were placed at once in a unique and irresponsible position, with a future of good or evil before them, over which they would then have appeared to have no control. Whether a more easy, paid bondage, with a certainty of all earning their freedom in so many years, would have enabled both planter and slave to have mutually prepared for the great change ere long to take place, and so have accustomed each to learn more thoroughly the relative terms of "master" and "servant," it is too late now to discuss. The people of the United Kingdom have always hearts open to the oppressed, and although at the very time West Indian slavery was abolished, our own women and children were working in a state of bestial degradation in the mines at home, yet the sufferings of the negro were so vividly brought home to our minds, as well as the fact of their rapidly decreasing in numbers, that,

acting on a generous impulse, it was decreed that slavery should no longer be endured in the colonies, however much it might be tolerated at home.

Whether, under such circumstances, any other race of men would have developed qualities different to those possessed by the present descendants of these liberated slaves, is in my opinion extremely doubtful, and it is a matter for wonder and satisfaction that they have proved both a loyal and patriotic people. There are negroes and negroes; and while some are indolent, and have failed to appreciate the priceless boon of freedom, regarding in consequence the whites as vastly inferior to themselves, the great majority are anxious in every way to improve themselves and advance; and where opportunity has offered, have proved themselves capable of holding high offices of responsibility, and many noble friendships have been contracted between white and coloured folk alike. It is the town blacks who give so bad a character to their race, and these are the types mostly studied by the "casual" visitor; but if one would desire to become acquainted with a nation at its core, we must not loiter in the streets and slums of the great cities, but go to the heart of the country, and there observe the simple peasantry, who form the sinews of the nation. So with the negroes; as peasant proprietors they are in character simple and law-abiding, and although their system of cultivation is too often wasteful and sluggish, this only awaits the remedy of a right instruction. In my opinion—which may not count for much, albeit I have carefully looked into the matter—a handful of just and resolute Englishmen embarking their capital in large plantations in the several islands, treating the Africanders with impartial kindness and firmness, paying them good wages for honest labour, and taking that kindly interest in their



wives and families which a farmer in the old country bestows upon his labourer's "kith and kin," would ere long restore the palmy side of the slavery of old, when the "good massa" knew each soul, young and old, on his estate, and took care that one and all were well cared for both in sickness and health, and, moreover, that old age was allowed its religious retirement and freedom from earthly toil. Old settlers are used to the vagaries of the black man, and are always ready to affirm that when he *will* work, there is none to beat him in the cane-field or other plantation.

Ungainly in the use of their limbs, coarse in expression, and more so in their habits, there is much that is naturally uncanny about the town negro; but treat him as you would a white man, with common civility, and you will generally find him a harmless baby, always on the broad grin, ready to explode with laughter at anything or nothing, and invariably munching a foot of hard sugar-cane. Then, again, the negresses in height and stature are on an equality with the men, and can join in a fight, or work at coaling vessels, with as much zeal in either case as the negroes themselves. A pair of trousers, a shirt, and a broad-brimmed hat on the one hand, and a highly starched, coloured linen dress, with gorgeous turban (which latter varies according to fashion) and sundry trinkets, on the other hand, constitute their respective attires; and after working, idling, or, in the case of the women, promenading all day with trays of sweet-meats and fruits on their heads, they invariably finish up with "a quality dance" at their own homes, in which the gestures, mode of speaking, and manner of laughing, as witnessed at a Christy Minstrel entertainment, bears an excellent resemblance. The negro has an irresistibly comic side, and enjoys a joke against himself with the

most perfect good-humour; in fact, he will thank you for the material affording him an opportunity for laughter; and it certainly is irresistibly comic to witness for the



MENDING ROADS.

first time a surplined choir of blacks, and churchwardens, sidesmen, and "quality" in black-tailed coats and snowy, starched shirt-fronts. The mind necessarily wanders back

to exhibitions of "Whitechapel darkies;" and when, in addition, troops of old negresses also enter in turbans of every hue, surmounted in most cases by one, two, sometimes three straw hats, it may pardonably be forgot that one is worshipping in a cathedral. Apropos of starching, a night-shirt and handkerchiefs I entrusted to our black laundress were returned, the one similar to a crinoline in stiffness, and the others so hard that it might as well have been attempted to blow one's nose with cardboard. They beat your things to shreds on stones, and then starch to the utmost to make up the deficiencies.

The various other negro grades are, of course, numerous represented, and various are the offices they fill—ministers, lawyers, waiters, cab-drivers, and what not; but it is for the preservation of the genuine agricultural negro that we should be most anxious; for in the West Indies, as at home, the peasantry are too anxious to fill town positions, for which they have neither tact nor qualification, leaving agriculture, the mother of all industries, to languish, and consequently helping to increase the depression under which the colonies are labouring.

I must now deal with the "gentle Hindoo," of whom in Trinidad alone there are some sixty thousand. Leaving their homes in Calcutta or thereabouts, they are indentured to planters requiring their services for a term of five years, during which time they receive good pay and every attention, and at the expiration of that period may seek employment anywhere. After a residence of ten years, they are entitled to a free return passage to India, or receive a Government grant of ten acres of land. Many of these coolies have amassed comparatively large fortunes, and the older emigrants used formerly too often to defraud the new-comers, by lending them money at

exorbitant usury, and then selling them food at famine prices. Now these latter are paid for the first two years partly in kind—that is, they receive so much rice, fish, etc., in lieu of full wages; and this system is found to work well. Further, there is a hospital hut on every estate, and a medical man attends once a week at least; they are, moreover, well educated in schools; and, with the watchful eye of the Government upon them, it may be truly asserted that their lot is a happy one, and that “their lines have fallen unto them in pleasant places.”

A lungee round the loins, with a linen jacket and white turban; on the other hand, a light petticoat, or modest linen wrap entwining the whole body, with often a velvet jacket (the babe being carried astride on the hip)—these form the respective costumes of the Hindoo and his young wife.

Graceful, handsome, and generally hard-working, but too parsimonious, frequently starving, although with ample means at their disposal, what a contrast do such present to the Africanders! One can well understand how they mutually despise and too often detest one another, and why the two races have never amalgamated. The refined, modest, courteous Hindoo regards the awkward, rude, blustering negro and negress as savages, and the latter look upon the former as heathens and interlopers; consequently, from words they often come to blows, and the herculean black is not always a match for the lithe, supple East Indian.

That these people are fast becoming an important factor in the populations of many of these West Indian islands has of late been overlooked by writers of eminence and knowledge. It has become, unfortunately for the subject under discussion, the fashion both for casual visitors and resident *littérateurs* to quarrel over the en-

dowments or imperfections of the British negro, much to the undue exaltation of that worthy's well-known self-esteem: and like as the British labourer was harangued and written into discontent, until he refused to work for the just wages the hard-hit tenant-farmer could allow him, and so finally drove his master from house and home, but only to find himself houseless and homeless; so, by continually informing the negro that he is underpaid, we are raising up around our fellow-colonists a discontented, idle set of labourers, whose presence bode no good to any island that contains them. The day is fast coming when immigration will again turn westward, and good wages will recompense hard work; but it would be better, while looking forward to that good time, to let those negroes who work well and are content with their wages so remain, instead of agitating them from their honest labour, with nothing of stability to offer them in its place. There are enough drones in the West Indies already; and we have only to glance at countries where agitation has produced first discontent, then indolence, and finally rebellion and open murder, to understand what enemies to their country's real welfare such men are, who sow the seeds of discontent. The entrance of the coolie in competition against the negro in the labour market has been productive of the best effects, as all competition, if not carried to extremes, will result; for it has clearly taught him that most desirable lesson (without which, from his lack of former teaching, he could not otherwise have learned), that although his labour is most highly appreciated, still, if he refuses to work, others are to be found only too ready to step into his shoes. And so I assert that the future of our Western dependencies cannot but be largely influenced by their increasing coolie population, and that in the long-

men, whether Chinese or otherwise, he who is the most industrious, the most careful, and the best son, husband, and parent, cannot but succeed in coming out first, whether in peaceful or warlike times.

A few half-caste Indians from the Chinese complete the coloured races; but here, as all the year 'round, there are many thousands of semi-civilized, like the Chinese, the women indistinguishable from the men, save in the wearing of oblique instead of pigtail. That they make excellent cooks and gardeners goes without saying, and as shopkeepers, money-lenders, and district storekeepers, they make large sums of money; their greatest pride being to send their wives to church, dressed in the most expensive and elaborate brocades and French bonnets,—save the mark!—and there they sit, not understanding a single word of what is spoken, and looking for all the world like attenuated mummies dressed up for the occasion.

In addition to these, almost every nation has its numerous representatives scattered throughout the islands.

